

SOCCER

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GST INCLUSIVE

Todd's Hat-Trick Of Gold Medals

By John Economos

TODD GAVA, the Queensland Lions' ace central defender, last Saturday night tackled a most meritorious third consecutive 'Gold' when he took out the prestigious 'Gary Wilkins Gold Medal' award at a glitzy dinner function attended by just over 400 guests at the Lions' spacious Social Club based at Richlands.

The tenaciously consistent defender has now joined a very small elite band of former Lions' super stars that have won this valuable honour on more than two occasions.

Record recipient of this Award was Steve Jackson who won it four times (1984, '86, '98 as well as in '99, whilst Andy Stowell was the other previous multi-winner to have

scored 'Gold' in 1989, '90 and '91.

A stunned Gava was still reeling with shock when the 23-year-old Lismore born player was approached by ABSW:

"This 'Gold' has come to me as a real shock, despite having won it the last two seasons. I missed six straight matches towards the end of the League because of a knee injury which in the end healed itself and I escaped having it operated on.

"This season was a very important one for the Lions as we set out to strongly prove to the Soccer authorities, (A.S.A.), that the Queensland Lions fully deserve a spot in next year's new National League," stressed Gava.

He then went on to add: "The Lions really mean business as we had to deliver yet again to ultimately get the Club onto the national Soccer map.

"I aim to stick with the Lions and really hope that later this week, (actually tomorrow Wednesday), the Australian Soccer Association officially notifies us that the Queensland Lions Soccer Club has been admitted into the new National Soccer League."

During the week Gava who manages a Sports Store in Brisbane, relishes the thought of becoming a fulltime professional once the Lions are rubber-stamped into the National Soccer League.

"It's a bit hard working of a day then having to train of a night. Once we are given the opportunity of becoming full-time players, I'm well certain that I can improve myself as even a better player," evaluated the triple Gold Medallist.

Just before midnight, the end was near for the Lions' 2004 Season as the final curtain

came down on an astonishing year for this very well-structured, progressive Club.

All six of the Lions' major teams, (Men and Womens), qualified for their respective Grand Finals, winning all six.

The Club's longest serving member, Life Member, Mr Henk Bakker, accredited with more than 47 consecutive years of unyielding dedicated service to the Lions, was honourably saluted on the evening with a very special presentation thoughtfully extended to him by the Queensland Lions' Board Of Directors.

The Lions as an added bonus now retain the Brusasco Cup for having won it three consecutive seasons (like Brasil with the World Cup).

(See back page for the Lions' 2004 Awards montage).

Lions' Player of the Year



The Gary Wilkins Medal Winner, TODD GAVA with Lions' President, Gary Wilkins.

Kewell and Aloisi to play?



John Aloisi (left) and striking partner Harry Kewell (right) should be given the OK to play against the Solomon Islands in the Second Leg in Sydney



Spotted at Brisbane's Suncorp Stadium last week during the Australian squad's training session, engaged in serious Soccer discussion, from l to r: The Queensland Lions' trio, Head Coach Miron Bleiberg, C.E.O. Lawrence Oudendyk, Director of Coaching John Sime, with far right National Technical Director, Ronnie Smith. (Photograph by Andrew Doak)

THE SOCCEROOS JOURNEY TO THE WORLD CUP STARTS HERE



Support the Qantas Socceroos in our crucial game against the Solomon Islands. Last time they held us to a nail-biting 2-2 draw. Now the Socceroos need your support, to get them on the road to the World Cup.

Go to www.ticketek.com.au or call (02) 9266 4800.

AUSTRALIA VS SOLOMON ISLANDS

Aussie Stadium
12 October 2004
7.30pm

Tickets from \$20 — or just \$40 for a family of four.

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Aussie goalkeeper Mark Bosnich has lifted the lid on his controversial spell at Manchester United.

As he prepares to take part on the reality TV show 'The Match!', Bosnich insisted he got along well with United manager Sir Alex Ferguson. It was Fergie's coaching staff he didn't see eye-to-eye with.

In a column for the Sunday Observer, Boz wrote: "I generally got on fine with Fergie, even if he did harbour some resentment that when I came back to England I had signed for Villa.

"He thought he'd got an agreement with my dad that I would return to Old Trafford. Later, he signed Fabien Barthez to replace me and look how that relationship ended, so maybe the egg is on his face.

"The real problem was with Steve McClaren and Tony Coton, the goalkeeping coach. I had developed my own training techniques. These didn't fit in with their ideas and that made them very insecure. I certainly never trusted McClaren and his role in United's success has been completely overplayed.

"That said, my first season with the club was fantastic.

We won the World Club Championship and took the Premiership title by a record margin. But I kept getting injured and events off the pitch didn't help."

Everton midfielder Tim Cahill admits he was stunned by Jamie Redknapp's ugly lunge at him during Saturday's clash with Tottenham.

Cahill is facing a lengthy spell on the sidelines with a knee injury and told the Evening Standard: "I don't want to see Jamie sent off or hauled before a disciplinary commission, but there is a discrepancy here which is ridiculous.

"You wonder what the game is coming to when you can't celebrate a goal, but you can kick people.

"I can't understand it and I can't work out what Jamie was doing. You can't speak to people right after something like that. Feelings are running too high and I just said to him: "Why?"

"He said it was just a reaction and it all happened very quickly, but I hope people will understand why I was so upset.

"I did my anterior cruciate on the same knee a couple of years ago and was out nearly seven months. Lying there in pain, I couldn't help worrying that this was at least as serious.

"Jamie has been on the treatment table as much as I have and that makes it even harder to fathom."

Cahill has since been cleared of any long term layoff injury.

Motherwell striker Scott McDonald has been named the SPL's Bank of Scotland Player of the Month for September.

McDonald was presented with his trophy alongside Terry Butcher, who won Manager of the Month also with Motherwell.

Butcher was quick to praise six-goal McDonald and admits he knows the youngster is likely

aussiesabroad

BY Mark Stavroulakis & Daniel Kuziow



No rift was evident between Mark Bosnich and Sir Alex Ferguson whilst at Manchester Utd

to be moving on to a bigger stage.

"Scott reminds me very much of Dougie (Arnott) but fortunately he hasn't given me nightmares like Arnott did in my playing days," said Butcher.

"I had a torrid time defending against Dougie when I played for Rangers and you can see Scott gives big defenders in the SPL the same problems.

"He turns people, uses his body well, works hard and gets all over the park scoring wonder goals and tap-ins."

The Well boss added: "If you are doing well there will always be players being noticed.

"I would be worried if clubs didn't want to take my players because that would mean the team was struggling."

Everton defender Eddy Bosnar says he won't rush into a decision over accepting an invitation to play for Croatia.

The Aussie centre-half is still fuming with Australia coach Frank Farina over the way he was cut from the Confederations Cup squad - but insists there won't be any rash decision over committing himself to another country.

Bosnar told evertonfc.com: "I have the option to play for Croatia, I will consider it. I have played there, I have lived there - I have a house there, so it's my second home, so there's no reason why I shouldn't play for them.

"My parents are also Croatian and I have a Croatian passport, so it is another option that is currently open to me."

He added: "I have put my international career on hold for a while. There are a few reasons, one of which is that I was in the squad originally, then I got a text saying that I would be omitted.

"It was said I was not fit enough to play, as I haven't been playing regularly enough, which I don't agree with.

Some of the players who Frank Farina has called up are from the lower leagues and even if I don't play in the first-team here, it shouldn't make much of a difference.

"We'll just have to wait and see what happens. The manager



Stamford Bridge bound for trials is lucky young Victorian midfielder Billy Celeski with the well known Chelsea outfit

might be there for the next ten years. I hope Australia makes it to the next World Cup. It would be a shame if they didn't qualify."

Aussie midfielder Vince Agrella says his season at new club Parma is on track.

"It is going just as I wanted," Grella told the club's website. "In a new team it is important to play with continuity, so you can get used to the way the team works.

"To always be amongst the first-choice players gives me great satisfaction: I am someone who has been on the bench a lot and has suffered serious injuries. When you get to play from the start, you're desperate not to give that up."

Both Grella and Marco Bresciano were visited by some fellow Australians this week and Grella added: "It's always great for this to happen, as we're both very far away from home. But my dream has always been to play in Italy. I'm very happy to be here."

Rangers defender Craig Moore is facing a hernia operation.

The Australia international has missed Gers last two games because of the groin problem.

Rangers insist Moore is only struggling with a virus, but an Australian national team insider told the Sunday Mail: "Craig needs a hernia operation.

"It also means he won't be playing against the Solomon Islands."

Inter Milan midfielder Carl Valeri is currently at Serie C1 outfit Spal.

The Australia U23 international, 18, moved to Spal on transfer deadline day for domestic loan deals.

Valeri has joined Spal on a season-long loan and has already made his debut off the bench for the Third Division club.

Valeri recently re-signed an extra two year deal with Inter but under the club's policy, has been

loaned out to Spal in order of getting match fit.

Former West Brom and Charlton Athletic goalkeeper Andy Pettersen has left England to try his luck in the United States.

The experienced shot-stopper is chasing a contract with Major League Soccer and is trialling with several interested clubs.

Bulleen Zebras's young star, Billy Celeski is preparing to take the biggest step of his soccer career as he begins a three-week trial at none other than English Premier League giants Chelsea FC.

It has been an awesome year for the 19 year-old mid-fielder, who helped the Zebras cruise to victory in the Victorian Premier League grand final after an exceptional 2004 campaign.

If that wasn't enough, Celeski was then chosen to represent the Young Socceroos in the two-match series against the Chilean Under-20 team last month. Celeski demonstrated his potential, which surely impressed Young Socceroo coach, Ange Postecoglou enough to consider him for a recall in the lead up to the World Youth Championships next year.

Celeski now has the support of Victoria behind him as he tests his skills in front of one of the worlds biggest clubs. Celeski's European dream will see him train with the reserve team and even give him a run with the senior squad, made up of million dollar players.

Celeski's agent, Ismail Ozsoy told The Age what the player could expect if he impresses in his trial.

"If Chelsea were interested in him, it is likely they might look for some sort of arrangement where he would be loaned out to one of their partners or feeder clubs in Belgium or Holland, because he hasn't got an EU passport."

Parma midfielder Vince Grella has admitted a short presea-



son is catching up with him.

As he prepared for Australia's international against the Solomon Islands, Grella told the Courier Mail: "I could do with some extra fuel. It's all caught up with me and that's the reason I was taken off [against Fiorentina] on the weekend.

"We'd just played in Slovenia [against Maribor] and I hadn't recovered.

"I hadn't done any of the pre-season work with Parma but I guess I'm lucky that Silvio Baldini is the coach here - I had him at Empoli."

Aussie youngster Jesse Krncevic is currently trialling at Kilmarnock.

The former Marconi and South Melbourne trainee has been training with Killie for the past two weeks and has impressed manager Jim Jefferies.

Krncevic is the son of former Australian Socceroo Eddie Krncevic, who now acts as Jesse's agent - along with Killie star Danny Invincible.

Krncevic Snr was one of Australia's first successful exports, blazing a trail through Europe with the likes of Anderlecht, Standard Liege and Dinamo Zagreb.

Son Jesse is a centre-forward like his Dad and arrived in Scotland after spells in Croatia and Belgium.

Liverpool's Harry Kewell has insisted he will come good for the Merseyside outfit after admitting he can do "a lot better."

The 26-year-old Australian has struggled again this season to live up to the form which he initially showed after moving from Leeds for £5m a year ago. He said:

"I know I can do a lot better. There are things I have to improve on and there are things the team has to improve on as well. There's a lot more to come from me, that's for sure.

"I am one of my biggest critics where football is concerned. I never play a good game. I always think I can do things better. I am quite sure my form will improve over the rest of the season.

"We have a new manager here and it's a transition time for all of us. The boss will get the best out of the team and out of the players.

"The important thing is I know what I am capable of. If people want to criticise me then fair enough. I know what I can do and I'm quite sure I'll do it. I'd like to see where the critics go then."



Trials for Wollongong Wolves Women's Division

Selection Trials will be held on
Sunday 17th & Sunday 24th October at
Bluescope Centenary Field, Cringila.
(Cnr Five Islands & Springhill Rds.)

The club is looking for both junior and
senior players trials will be held as follows:

Under 12's — 9.30 to 10.30am
Under 14's — 10.30 to 11.30am
Under 16's — 11.30am to 12.30pm
Under 21's and First Grade — 12.30 for
1.00 to 3.00pm

Past and New Players Welcome

For more information contact:
Edith or Peter Graham —
0426 5486 or 0407 899 497 (Peter)
Robyn Funnell — 0410 310 758



Sydney United Football Club

PREMIER YOUTH LEAGUE

TRIALS

2005 SEASON

Trial dates and times are as follows:

Saturday & Sunday
16th & 17th October
U/13's 9.00am — U/14's 10.30am
U/15's 12noon — U/16's 1.30pm
U/18's 3.00pm
Monday & Wednesday
18th & 20th October
U/13's & U/14's 5.30pm
U/15's & U/16's 6.30pm
U/18's 7.30pm

Trials to be held at
Horsley Park, The Horsley Drive
Horsley Park

All players are asked to be in attendance 30 minutes
prior to trial times.

For further information call Dave on
0433 103 227 or Mick on 0421 900 339



BONNYRIGG WHITE EAGLES
SOCCER CLUB

Super Youth League

TRIALS SEASON 2005

Venue:

Ireland Park — Memorial Avenue, Liverpool

Age	Date	Time	Coach
13 yrs	Tues 12th, 19th, 26th Oct Sun 17th, 24th, 31st Oct	6.00pm 9.00am	Alex Vrankovic
14 yrs	Tues 12th, 19th, 26th Oct Sun 17th, 24th, 31st Oct	7.30pm 9.00am	Mick Lalic
15 yrs	Tues 12th, 19th, 26th Oct Sun 17th, 24th, 31st Oct	7.30pm 11.00am	Sam Dalessandro
16 yrs	Wed 13th, 20th, 27th Oct Sun 17th, 24th, 31st Oct	6.00pm 11.00am	John-Carlo Fellini
18 yrs	Wed 13th, 20th, 27th Oct Sun 17th, 24th, 31st Oct	7.30pm 1.00pm	Raffaele Capasso

For further information call Wayne Dewberry
Youth League Co-Ordinator on 0412 162 406



BELMORE HERCULES

Development Youth League 2005 Season Trials

U13's & U14's:

Tuesdays October 12th, 19th, 26th &
November 2nd

U15's & U16's:

Thursdays October 14th, 21st, 28th &
November 4th

U20's & First Grade:

Tuesdays November 9th, 16th
Thursdays November 11th, 18th

Cooke Park

Chisholm Rd, Belfield

TRIAL TIMES 6PM-8PM

Positions Open For All Coaches

Including Seniors, First Division Federation

Expressions of interest please call

George Lazarou on

0425 819 319



Northern Tigers Soccer Club

Will be holding Trials for their Under 20
and First Grade Winter Super League
Squads for 2005 Season

Starting 7th December 2004

Venue: **Norman Griffiths Oval**
Lofberg Ave, West Pymble

When: Tuesdays and Thursdays
Time: 6.30pm for 7.00pm Start

For Further information ring
Louis Faydherbe, Football Manager on
0402 077 073 or KDSA Office 9477 6521

Northern Tigers Soccer Club

Development Coach Required

For the Under 20 Winter Super League
for 2005.

Applicants must have the appropriate
accreditations.

Applications should be forwarded to the
General Manager

Ku-ring-gai District Soccer Association
PO Box 3288, Asquith NSW 2077

For further enquiries phone 9477 6521



**Hajduk
WANDERERS
UNITED**

TRIALS 2005 SEASON

The board and management of
Hajduk Wanderers United Soccer Club

invites players to take the next step in our
Premier Youth League — "Highway to the Top"

Season 2005 trials are for players with special
qualities including:

- ★ Increased level of enthusiasm
- ★ High ambitions
- ★ Determination to succeed
- ★ Must have a commitment to perform
above the "norm"

Trial dates are on Sundays:

17th, 24th, 31st October & 7th November 2004

U/13's: 10.30am, U/14's: 12.00noon, U/15's: 1.30pm

U/16's: 3.00pm, U/18's: 4.30pm

SENIORS TRIALS

First Grade & U/20's

Commence Sunday 31st October 2004

Start at 4.30pm

Players must arrive 30 minutes prior start times to register.

All enquiries, please contact
Charles Abdilla on 0416 171 896

All trials to be held at Hajduk Stadium
130 Edensor Road, St Johns Park



Parramatta Eagles
Soccer Academy

Official Youth Development Partners
of Manchester United in Oceania



PRE-ACADEMY U/12 TRIALS

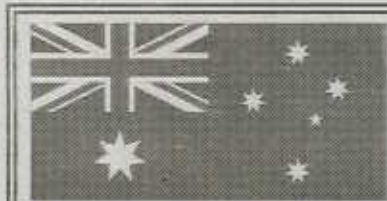
Parramatta Eagles Soccer Academy are holding Open Trials for the
2005 SEASON FOR ITS PRE-ACADEMY TEAM

on **Wednesday 20th and 27th October 2004 at 5.30pm**
at **EVERLEY PARK, EVERLEY ROAD**
CHESTER HILL

(next to Melita Stadium)

To register please arrive 30 minutes before your trial.

FOR ENQUIRIES CONTACT:
Chief Scout JOHN CURRAN 9738 7222
or visit website www.parraeaglesacademy.com



Skoko the Solomon Slayer



Australia 5
Solomon Islands 1

AUSTRALIA overcame stifling heat and a wildly enthusiastic home crowd to thrash the Solomon Islands last Saturday and all but secure a berth in next year's lucrative Confederations Cup.

Socceroo veteran Josip Skoko claimed hero status for the side with a double as he sent the green and gold's towards a positive pathway for the second leg in Sydney.

The return leg is in Sydney on Tuesday where the Socceroos can expect to build on their four-goal advantage.

Blackburn midfielder Brett Emerton turned in a consum-

mate performance, setting up the first three goals and scoring the fourth as the Socceroos took a commanding 4-0 lead into the interval.

With temperatures in the mid thirties and humidity at 80 per cent, Australia struggled noticeably in the second half, scoring only one more goal through Ahmad Elrich.

The Solomon Islands took advantage of the oppressive conditions, with skipper Batram Suri pulling one goal back after being set up by star striker Commins Menapi.

The capacity crowd of 21,500 erupted with chants of "Go Solo go" and play was

held up for three minutes while the pitch was cleared of objects thrown from the crowd.

Menapi was a controversial inclusion in today's side after receiving two yellow cards during June's match against Australia in Adelaide which Socceroos coach Frank Farina said should have disqualified him from today's game.

Farina was pleased with his players' performance in difficult conditions.

"We were struggling on the sidelines, so you can only imagine what it was like on the field," he said.

"We started well, the boys tired towards the end but we held it together well and once the third goal was scored we felt a lot more comfortable.

"The Solomon Islands had some quality players and they played well.

"We've still got to get through game two, we're 5-1 up but we've got to play 90 minutes."

Australian midfielder Josip Skoko, who plays for Turkish club Genclerbirligi, scored

twice in the fifth and 28th minutes.

The Socceroos' other goalscorers were Emerton, Elrich and Ante Milicic.

Youngsters Luke Wilkshire and Jon McKain came on in the second half to make their senior debuts for the Socceroos.

Australia were missing seven first-choice players through injury including Harry Kewell, John Aloisi, Mark Viduka and Marco Bresciano, although Kewell and Aloisi could return for Tuesday's match.

People arrived from all over the South Pacific nation of 495,000 to catch a glimpse of what Solomon Islands coach Alan Gillett described as the biggest sporting event the country had seen.

Just over a year ago the country was struggling against bankruptcy with armed militias controlling large areas of Honiara and the country's Weather Coast.

The civil war ended when an Australian-led Pacific military and police force landed and restored order but the country is still grappling with a broken economy and a dependency on its Pacific neighbours.

In the crowd were a number of dignitaries including Australian High Commissioner Patrick Cole and Solomon Islands Prime Minister Sir Allan Kemakeza.

Kemakeza took a philosophical approach to the home team's performance.

"Whether you win or lose it doesn't matter it's taking part that matters and it's great for our team to be up at this level," Kemakeza said.

"I think we need to congratulate the Solomon Islands team for getting this far for the first time in history."

Security was high at



Socceroos had Josip Skoko as their star play scoring a double against the Solomons

today's game with more than 100 police on site to guard against possible violence.

But the crowd was in good spirits and police made no arrests.

The winner of the two-leg tie will join Germany, Brazil, Tunisia, Greece, Mexico, Argentina and Japan in the Confederations Cup next year.

Australia and the Solomon Islands will also clash again next September in the two-leg World Cup Oceania zone playoff.

AUSTRALIA 5
(J Skoko 5m 28m A Milicic 19m B Emerton 43m A Elrich 79m)

SOLOMON ISLANDS 1
(B Suri 60m)
Confederations Cup first leg qualifier at Lawson Tama Stadium, Honiara.



Brett Emerton shown celebrating his goal with yet another goal-scorer Ahmad Elrich



Goal Joy for the Solomons with Commings Menapi celebrating their only goal

KEWELL AND ALOISI TO PLAY?



Set to play in Sydney will be stars Harry Kewell (left) and John Aloisi

The Socceroos next clash against the Solomons on Tuesday (Tonight 12 October) has already proved to be ear marked with the home side in a great advantage to take the game in more comfortable fashion.

Two of the Australian stars that did not fair in Honiara due to injury could possibly make their returns for Frank Farina's squad.

Much scrutiny and criticism has surrounded Harry Kewell's availability since his touchdown in the Southern Hemisphere.

A groin injury has hammered his progression into the starting eleven but close sources to ABSW have stated that we could see 'The Jewel' in action.

Along with Kewell is striking partner John Aloisi, who has done ever so well in the Spanish Primera Liga to date.

Aloisi could also be yet another inclusion into the squad strengthening the home side's chances of scoring many more goals.

The pair should be partnering each other up front.

The tiny islanders will now be faced with the enormous task of needing at least five to progress through to the final of the Confederations Cup - an unlikely scenario but no doubt Solomon's English coach Alan Gillett will be pumping up his players for gaining respect back into the little Pacific Island nation.

Australian Spectators have already claimed this match as an 'exhibition hit-out' following the side's large margin win in Honiara.

Australia soccer coach Frank Farina says he is confident star players Harry Kewell and John Aloisi will be fit for Tuesday's second leg of the Confederations Cup qualifying series against Solomon Islands. Both Kewell and Aloisi missed that game through injury, with Farina fielding a three-man strike force of Ante Milicic, Ahmad Elrich and Brett Emerton, all of whom found the back of the net.

But after the match Farina said he expected Kewell and Aloisi to be back in the side for the Sydney match.

"I'll be very disappointed if both John Aloisi and Harry Kewell are not available on Tuesday," he said.

"That [resting them] was the the whole reason for actually not making them travel to Honiara, and I'm pretty confident they will be."

If Liverpool midfielder Kewell does play in Sydney it will be his first appearance for the Socceroos on home soil since 2001.

Gillett turned down Lesotho job for Oz test

Solomon Islands coach Alan Gillett has revealed he's turned down the national job with Lesotho and also two

English club posts to stay with the Solomons for this week's Confederations Cup double-header.

"My wife [Kate] said I was being a romantic, but I wanted to see the job through," Gillett told the Sydney Morning Herald.

"What happened after Adelaide is something that will live with me forever. I've never seen scenes like that before - and I've been around a long time. It shows what football means to these people. It's been an adventure I'll never forget."



Solomon Islands coach Alan Gillett

Macarthur Rams 2005 Season TRIALS

NSW Super League Trials Season 2005

First Grade & Grade 20
For further enquiries,
please contact
Wayne Toogood on
0403 798 287

All trialists to be ready 30 minutes prior to scheduled time.

Womens 1st Grade & Under 21	Girls Under 12, 14 & 16
■ Wednesday Oct 20	■ Wednesday Oct 27
■ Friday Oct 22	■ Friday Oct 29
■ Wednesday Oct 27	■ Wednesday Nov 3
■ Friday Oct 29	■ Friday Nov 5
■ Wednesday Nov 3	■ Wednesday Nov 10
■ Friday Nov 5	■ Friday Nov 12

All players to be ground 6:00pm for a 6:30pm start

Any further enquiries please contact
David Finlay **0431 280848** or Louise Burns **0407 784517**

Lynwood Park Rangers Rd, St Helens Park



SYDNEY OLYMPIC FC

Youth League Trials

Is commencing its Premier Youth League Trials for
Grades U13, U14, U15, U16 and U18's this Sunday from 9AM.
Everyone is welcome.

WHEN: Sunday 17th October 2004

WHERE: Bicentennial Park, Corner West Botany St and
Presidents Ave, Kogarah

TIME:

Grade 13 - 9.00AM to 10.30AM Grade 14 - 10.30AM to 12.00PM
Grade 15 - 12.00PM to 1.30PM Grade 16 - 1.30PM to 3.00PM
Grade 18 - 3.00PM to 5.00PM

Additional Trials:

Grade 13 & 14 Wednesday 13th October 6.00PM - 8.00PM
Grade 15 & 16 Thursday 14th October 6.00PM - 8.00PM

Sydney Olympic has successfully secured experienced coaching staff
in ex-Sydney Olympic players and ex-internationals.

For more information please ring
Peter Sarikakis (Youth Technical Director) on
0412 407 830



PENRITH NEPEAN UNITED

(A joint initiative of Penrith Panthers
and Nepean Association)

TRIAL DATES FOR 2005 REPRESENTATIVE TEAMS

METROPOLITAN LEAGUE

At Cook Park — Wilson Street, St Marys

U/11's — Fridays 15th, 22nd & 29th October — 6.15pm to 8.15pm
U/12's — Fridays 29th Oct., 5th & 12th November — 6pm to 8pm

SUPER YOUTH LEAGUE

At Cook Park — Wilson Street, St Marys

U/13's — Sunday 10th October — 8.30pm & Monday 11th, 18th,
25th October & 1st November 6.30pm to 8.30pm
U/14's — Sunday 10th October — 10am & Mondays 11th, 18th,
25th October & 1st November 6.30pm to 8.30pm

U/15's — Sunday 10th October — 11.30am & Wednesdays 13th,
20th, 27th October & 3rd November 6.30pm to 8.30pm
U/16's — Sunday 10th October — 1.00pm & Wednesdays 13th,
20th, 27th October & 3rd November 6.30pm to 8.30pm

U/18's — Sunday 10th October — 2.30pm & Sundays —
17th, 24th, 31st October, 7th & 14th November 9.00am to 11am

ENQUIRIES:

Youth League — Steve Boyd (MB) 0408 400 396
Metro League — Keith Charles (MB) 0403 289 267

GIRLS YOUTH LEAGUE & WOMENS SUPER LEAGUE

All Girls & Women's Trials are held

At Doug Rennie Field

Cnr Second Ave & Paskin St., Kingswood

on Sundays — 17th, 24th, 31st October, 7th & 14th November

GIRLS YOUTH LEAGUE

U/12's — 10.30am to 12.00pm

U/14's — 12.00pm to 1.30pm

U/16's — 1.30pm to 3.00pm

WOMENS SUPER LEAGUE

1st Grade & U/21's — 3.00pm to 5.00pm

Enquiries to Erris Shiels
(MB) **0414 900 512**



GRANVILLE RAGE

Trial Dates for 2005 Metro League and Youth League

Metro League are F S Garside Park
(Onslow Street, Granville) 6.00pm — 8.00pm

U/11's Monday October 11 & 18

Thursday October 14 & 21

U/12's Tuesday October 12 & 19

Friday October 15 & 22

Granville Rage Youth League Male & Female

MALE

Ray Marshall Reserve

(Erie Street, South Granville) 6.00pm — 8.00pm

U/13's (Field 1) & U/14's (Field 2)

Monday October 11 & 18

Thursday October 14 & 21

U/15's (Field 2) & U/16's (Field 1)

Tuesday October 12 & 19

Friday October 15 & 22

F S Garside Park U/18's

Wednesday October 13 & 20 6.00pm — 8.00pm

Sunday October 17 & 24 9.00am — 11.00am

Female Trial Dates

Horlyck Reserve Bornaia Street,

SOUTH GRANVILLE

U/12's 6.00pm — 7.30pm

Monday October 11 & 18

Wednesday October 13 & 20

U/14's 6.00pm — 7.30pm

Tuesday October 12 & 19

Thursday October 14 & 21

U/16's 7.00pm — 9.00pm

Tuesday October 12 & 19

Thursday October 14 & 21

(As per Soccer NSW regulations Girls Youth League and Women's
State league must be entered as a block in Season 2005.

We will be unable to enter one with out the other)

The trial dates for Women's State League are still to be confirmed.

CONTACT:

VIC ZAPPAL 0418 234 768

MICHAEL BRIGGS 0412 009 986



MARCONI STALLIONS Premier Youth League Trials 2005 Season

GRADE 18 (Players born in 1987 or 1988)

7.30pm Monday 11th October 2004
7.30pm Wednesday 13th October 2004
11.00am Saturday 16th October 2004

GRADE 16 (Players born in 1989)

7.30pm Monday 11th October 2004
7.30pm Wednesday 13th October 2004
10.00am Saturday 16th October 2004

GRADE 15 (Players born in 1990)

6.00pm Monday 11th October 2004
6.00pm Wednesday 13th October 2004
9.00am Saturday 16th October 2004

GRADE 14 (Players born in 1991)

7.30pm Tuesday 12th October 2004
7.30pm Thursday 14th October 2004
10.00am Sunday 17th October 2004

GRADE 13 (Players born in 1992)

6.00pm Tuesday 12th October 2004
6.00pm Thursday 14th October 2004
9.00am Sunday 17th October 2004

* Players must report 30 minutes prior to starting time, to register.

* All players must wear correct playing gear including shin pads

* ALL TRIALS TO BE HELD AT CLUB MARCONI TRAINING FIELDS 2 & 3

Head Coach Youth Football

Tommy McCulloch

0416 089 604

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SYDNEY UNIVERSITY EASTERN LIONS



INVITATION TO TRIAL FOR SYDNEY UNIVERSITY
EASTERN LIONS 2005 SQUADS

POSITIONS ARE AVAILABLE IN ALL SQUADS —
METRO 11 AND 12, UNDER 13 TO UNDER 16

Sydney University Eastern Lions are currently
looking for Elite Players to join their 2005
Squads.

Trials will be held over four consecutive weeks
for each age group at
Jellilcoe Park, Park Parade, Pagewood
commencing at 5.30pm.

MONDAYS: 5.30PM Jellilcoe Park

Under 11s Mondays: Oct 11, Oct 18, Oct 25 & Nov 1
Under 13s Mondays: Oct 11, Oct 18, Oct 25 & Nov 1

TUESDAYS: 5.30PM Jellilcoe Park

Under 12s Tuesdays: Oct 12, Oct 19, Oct 26 & Nov 2
Under 15s Tuesdays: Oct 12, Oct 19, Oct 26 & Nov 2

WEDNESDAYS: 5.30PM Jellilcoe Park

Under 14s Wednesdays: Oct 13, Oct 20, Oct 27 & Nov 3
Under 16s Wednesdays: Oct 13, Oct 20, Oct 27 & Nov 3

If you are a committed Soccer player looking for a
challenging and rewarding experience then we
would like to see you there!

For more information or questions please
contact SUEL Youth League Convenor,
Tom Adam on 0418 268 380.

QLD State League set for Kick-Off

By Glenn Davis

After an absence of more than 13 years, a new state-wide competition gets underway in Queensland next weekend.

The new six week Queensland State Cup will pit the best of Queensland Soccer talent from all regions of the state against each other for an ultimate share of \$12,000 prize money.

Representative teams from Far North Queensland, North Queensland, North Queensland, Whit Sunday (Mackay), Central Queensland, North West Queensland (Mt Isa), Wide Bay, Sunshine Coast, Gold Coast and Brisbane will be pitted against each other in two groups.

Each group will play a full round robin with the top two teams from each group moving to the semi finals. The

final will be held on December 4.

Brisbane's two teams, Queensland Lions and Pine Rivers are favourites for the inaugural State Cup.

However, regional Queensland will undoubtedly be the real winners of the competition.

The State Cup will provide a new level of competition, and a vehicle for promotion of the sport not seen for many years in regional Queensland.

Since the closing down of the previous State League in 1981 primarily due to travel costs involved in staging a full season state wide competition, Queensland soccer enthusiasts across the State have been robbed of access to the best possible state competition.

The Australian Soccer Association has suggested that State League competitions from each State will form an

important second tier to the new Australian Premier League.

Soccer Queensland believes that this inaugural State Cup concept will provide

valuable input into the planning and consultation necessary to determine the viability of a full "State League" in the future.

It is planned to conduct the State Cup in 2004 and 2005 as part of this planning and viability study.



STATE CUP DRAW

Group 1
Far North Queensland
North Queensland
Mt Isa
Pine Rivers
Sunshine Coast

Group 2
Mackay
Capricorn Cougars
Wide Bay
Gold Coast
Queensland Lions

Round 1 - October 23

** Game 3 and Game 5 will be played October 16 **

Game 1	North Qld Razorbacks	v	Mt Isa
Game 2	Sunshine Coast	v	Far North Qld
Game 3 **	** Wide Bay	v	Queensland Lions **
Game 4	Capricorn Cougars	v	Gold Coast
Game 5 **	** Mackay	v	Pine Rivers **

Round 2 - October 30

** Game 8 to be played 3.30pm on Sunday October 31 **

Game 6	Pine Rivers	v	Mt Isa
Game 7	North Qld Razorbacks	v	Sunshine Coast
Game 8	** Capricorn Cougars	v	Queensland Lions **
Game 9	Gold Coast	v	Mackay
Game 10	Far North Qld	v	Wide Bay

Round 3 - November 6

Game 11	Far North Qld	v	North Qld Razorbacks
Game 12	Sunshine Coast	v	Pine Rivers
Game 13	Queensland Lions	v	Gold Coast
Game 14	Mackay	v	Wide Bay
Game 15	Mt Isa	v	Capricorn Cougars

Round 4 - November 13

Game 16	Pine Rivers	v	North Qld Razorbacks
Game 17	Mt Isa	v	Far North Qld
Game 18	Wide Bay	v	Capricorn Cougars
Game 19	Mackay	v	Queensland Lions
Game 20	Gold Coast	v	Sunshine Coast

Round 5 - November 20

Game 21	Far North Qld	v	Pine Rivers
Game 22	Sunshine Coast	v	Mt Isa
Game 23	Wide Bay	v	Gold Coast
Game 24	Capricorn Cougars	v	Mackay
Game 25	North Qld Razorbacks	v	Queensland Lions

SEMI FINALS November 27 Winner Group 1 vs Second Group 2
Winner Group 2 vs Second Group 1

FINAL December 4 Winner Semi Final 1 vs Winner Semi Final 2

Young Matildas fall to China

CHINA U19s 2
(Wang Dandan 65', 76')
AUSTRALIA U19s 1
(Sally Shipard 56')
(Half-time score 0-0)

The Australian Women's U19 Team (the Qantas Young Matildas) rounded out the three-match series against China U19s with a 2-1 loss last Saturday in Mandurah, WA.

All three games ended in the exact same scoreline in China's favour in this series being played as preparation before both teams compete in next month's FIFA U19 Women's World Championship in Thailand.

The Australians had the slightly better first half of the two teams, with flowing football played at both ends. Neither side however was able to score, going in at the break 0-0.

Olympian Sally Shipard claimed the lead for Australia with a goal ten minutes into the second half, but it was not long before China's Wang Dandan responded with two goals within the space of eleven minutes to snatch the advantage from the home side.

The Qantas Young Matildas' training camp continues in Perth, concluding on Wednesday.



Sally Shipard continued her great form by scoring the only goal for the Young Matildas

Melbourne bids battle it out



Steve Horvat is leading the Melbourne United charge

By Ben Coonan

The area of Australia that drew the most interest for participation in the Australian Soccer Association's (ASA) New National Competition (NNC) was Melbourne — Australia's unchallenged sporting capital with a proud soccer history.

In 28 years of the National Soccer League (NSL), Melbourne clubs won seven championships.

Countless Soccerroo careers were born from Victorian clubs and a steady stream of current national reps were first seen in the NSL as recent as five years ago.

Mark Viduka and Danny Tiatto (Melbourne Knights), Marco Bresciano, Vince Grella, Simon Colosimo and Archie Thompson (Carlton SC) and Kevin Muscat (South Melbourne) all graced the NSL stage with tremendous success.

Unfortunately though, for Melbourne's NSL legacy, frequent ethnic rows and bitter tribal feuds are more likely to be remembered by Australia's soccer community for years to come.

For the most part, Victoria's most successful NSL clubs were aligned with ethnic groups, which was not always a detrimental thing, but always an unspoken hindrance on Australia's progression on the domestic scene.

South Melbourne was undeniably a Greek club, where as the Melbourne Knights were proudly Croatian.

So to in earlier NSL years, Melbourne spawned the Macedonian backed Preston Lions and German influenced Heidelberg United.

However, local support did not seem a problem for the likes of South and the Knights.

Up until their final season, South Melbourne was still managing crowds of circa 7,000 to their matches and the Knights would regularly pull a modest following of 3,000.

Somewhat surprisingly, Melbourne clubs void of a specific ethnic patronage were deserted of off the park success.

Firstly the Collingwood Warriors and secondly Carlton SC were introduced to the NSL, boasting dismal off field numbers, despite a healthy competitiveness on the field.

In the Warriors first NSL match in 1996, 10,200 spectators turned up to Victoria Park to see them thrash local rivals the Melbourne Knights 3-0.

Astonishingly, less than a year later at the same venue and against the league leaders (Brisbane Strikers), Collingwood could only draw 600 people to what was their final home match.

From the ashes of Collingwood rose Carlton in 1997 and much like their AFL associated predecessors, Carlton got off to a reasonable start.

5,897 pundits watched the first Carlton game and three years later under mounting debts and

hampered by a dwindling fan base, Carlton suffered the same fate as the Warriors.

Why was it that a centralized Melbourne soccer entity could not survive?

Here in lies the challenge for Melbourne's NNC representative.

Initially, the Victorian Soccer Federation (VSF), a Soccerroo backed entity named Melbourne United and a consortium operating under the banner of Melbourne Victory tabled their plans for involvement in the NNC.

In August, the VSF bid withdrew their application, effectively seconding the race for Victoria's sole berth in the new league between United and the Victory.

Now, less than a fortnight away from the ASA's much-anticipated announcement that will unveil the NNC's inaugural participants, a winner has all but emerged from down south.

It seems that the Victory, not United as first assumed, have gotten the nod for Melbourne's solitary berth in the NNC.

As of yet, very little is known about the Victory bid except for their playing colours and mooted home venue.

The Victory will play in traditional Victorian colours Navy and White and are said to be debating between Colonial Stadium and former South Melbourne base Bob Jane Stadium as their home.

No coaching staff or playing personnel names have been bandied just yet, although one can safely assume the sole Victorian based team will follow suit with each of the other state flagship teams and appoint a largely Victorian based line up.

The challenge is before the Victory to capture the imaginations of what has proven to be an extremely difficult sporting market.

Lessons are there to be learned from the past and one can only hope that when the Victory march out in 2005, a united (ironically enough) Melbourne fan base is behind them.



from the dressing sheds

by Mark Stavroulakis



Reebok to join in major sponsorship?

American sporting giants Nike may have already signed an agreement with the Socceroos and all other Australian sides in putting their kits up for the next few years but it is rumoured that Reebok could also join the chase in sponsoring the A-League next season.

October 21st will herald not only the announcement of which eight sides will compete in the new league, but also the major sponsors as well.

Known to many as one of the world's leading sporting brands, Reebok apparently wants in with the new league.

Not a bad sponsor to have on the ASA's side.

Following Reebok, a major car company is also in the running of also sponsoring the new league.

Hyundai is also rumoured to be on the verge of signing a deal with ASA.

Now that Adelaide United has rejoined the competition, morale is high at the ASA camp but the battle still continues with the Sydney FC bid.

Solomons brave but not good enough

The Solomon Islands showed a lot of ticker when they faced the Roos last weekend but it wasn't enough to guide them through to a classic match-up at Aussie Stadium.

Frank Farina and his brigade were far too strong and it showed with a five-one drubbing in Honiara to send the Australians in a commanding lead for their home leg.

I smell German sausages and litres of beer with the Confederations Cup only a sniff away from becoming a reality.

Greece - Brazil and other power nations will be the Aussies next task - and what a task that will be.

Milicic stands-up

One must feel for Socceroo striker Ante Milicic who was shuffled into the team last minute after John Aloisi pulled out through injury.

The Pahang striker who currently rates as this country's most prolific top scorer with the hundreds of Aussies playing abroad did well in Honiara and proved to everyone that no matter the situation, Milicic will always give his 100% for this country.

He even got on the score-sheet in their five-one whitewash.

His pride and passion has earned him a lot of respect from players and supporters from across Australia - well done Ante, your patriotism is terrific.

NSW Premier League club Sydney United will benefit greatly by getting Ante as their guest player for their new season.

Farina's Job well done

Socceroo coach Frank Farina can count his lucky stars that everything went as planned in Honiara after securing a valuable victory over the Solomons.

A loss would have damaged Farina's name and could have alternatively stepped up the pressure on his position as coach of this nation.

Farina has shut his critics for now and will hope that they remain shut with the possibility of qualifying for the World Cup in Germany.

Bad boy done good

The bad boy image of Socceroo star Simon Colosimo has surely been lifted after a convincing performance against the Solomon Islands last Saturday afternoon.

Frank Farina praised Colosimo's tireless efforts on the pitch that awarded possibly the best player in the game lifting his chances of making the final squad.

Currently playing for Malaysian side Pahang, Colosimo's profile has grown stronger with the Socceroos boss especially after his tremendous game against the Solomons.

Having gone through bust ups with coaches, failed overseas attempts with clubs and having fought injuries, Simon's act has surely cleaned up for the best and the huge factor is, he could only get better.

"Simon was possibly our best player and did well but I know he can do even better",



Simon Colosimo was the best on the pitch for the Socceroos against the Solomon Islands

Farina stated to the 'Sunday Telegraph'.

Although he's playing in Malaysia it doesn't mean he's not part of my plans."

Running exhaustively in Honiara was seen by the very few Australian journalists that made the trek to the tiny Pacific Island of the Solomon Islands.

Giving it his all in tense heat Colosimo stated - "I enjoy playing exactly where I did in the first match."

"I know at club level I'm not where I want to be but I just want to keep myself in Frank's plans," he told the 'Sunday Telegraph'.

Colosimo has asserted himself as always on call for the Socceroos and believes that the best is yet to come from the makeshift midfielder.

The bad boy image of Simon Colosimo has rubbed off for now, the sky now is the limit for the former Parramatta Power star.

Sydney Olympic's unbelievable midfield

One cannot believe the amount of ammunition NSW Premier League side Sydney Olympic will take with them for the start of the NSW Premier League season in November.

A midfield consisting of Andre Gumprecht - Wayne O'Sullivan - Troy Halpin - Zenon Caravella - Greg Owens and Shane Lyons is by far one of the most fiercest in the league so far.

It's enough to have rivaled any midfield pairings in last season's National League.

Let's not forget the few talented youth stars in the squad as well who will come off the bench in helping the Blues out.

Coach John Doyle will surely have a dynamic midfield that will be the envy of all in the Premier League.

Australia can't afford more losses

One hot topic that seems to rear its head ever so often is the issue of Australian born players switching alliances with rival countries.

We currently have two players engaged in a tug-of-war scenario in whether they should choose their native Australia or their second country.

At the moment, Motherwell striker Scott McDonald and Everton FC defender Eddy Bosnar are being linked to moves with their respective nations.

Scotland have been chasing McDonald for quite some time now and after receiving last year's player of the month, Scotty is certainly in demand.

As is Bosnar who has been linked with a move to Croatia.

Both players though have stated that they want to wear the Green and Gold but how long will these players wait?

Let's hope we do not lose any more stars as in the past we've seen Ante Seric, Josip Simunic and Jaime McMaster join other nations.

THE BANKSTOWN CITY CUBS FC & B.D.A.S.A. — Bankstown District Amateur Soccer Association



YOUTH TRIALS

ASSOCIATION REPS

Under 11's & Under 12's

Sunday 10th October — U11's @ 9.00am / U12's @ 10.30am
Saturday 16th October — U11's @ 9.00am / U12's @ 10.30am
Sunday 24th October — U11's @ 9.00am / U12's @ 10.30am
Venue: Coleman Park, Henry Lawson Drive, GEORGES HALL
Contact: Frank Motti on 0438 120 562

PREMIER YOUTH LEAGUE

Tuesday 12th October @ 6.30pm / U13's, U14's, U16's
Wednesday 13th October @ 6.30pm / U15's, U18's
Thursday 14th October @ 6.30pm / U13's, U18's
Friday 15th October @ 6.30pm / U15's, U18's
Venue: O'Neil Park, cnr Cooper Rd & Nobbs Rd, YAGOONA
Contact: U13's Mark on 0411 175 188
Contact: U14's Rolando on 0411 175 228
Contact: U15's Barry on 0408 620 565
Contact: U16's Javier on 0407 782 590
Contact: U18's Nesbor on 0412 147 946

The Bankstown City Lions FC commence their Pre-Season with the following games:

BANKSTOWN CITY LIONS FC vs A.P.I.A. Leichhardt Tigers FC
@ GREEN GREEN Reserve, George Street, YAGOONA
Sunday 10th October — Kick Off: U20's 1pm / 1st Grade @ 3pm

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION PLEASE CONTACT:
GEORGE JACKSON: 0407 175 727 or
LAURIE SIMPSON: 0414 850 453
Email: lionsfc@ljupce.com or bdasa@bullet.net.au



SCHOFIELDS SCORPIONS

Super Youth Trials

Start Sunday 10 October

U13 8.30am, U14 10am, U15 11.30am,
U16 1pm, U18 2.30pm

11.10.2004 Under 13 & Under 14 start 6pm

12.10.2004 Under 15 & Under 16 start 6pm

13.10.2004 Under 18 start 7pm

Than Sundays 17.10, 24.10, 31.10 & 7.11.2004

Under 13 at 8.30am Coach Bera Simone

Under 14 at 10.00am Coach Alex Watson

Under 15 at 11.30pm Coach Peter Daglis

Under 16 at 1.00pm Coach Michael Kavouras

Under 18 at 2.30pm Coach John Caprara

ALL TRIALS AT MT DRUITT TOWN CENTRE
RALFE PLACE, MT DRUITT
BE THERE READY AND REGISTERED
TO GO ON TIME

FOR MORE INFORMATION
PHONE JOE BELCASO 0418 447 138
OR KEITH GREENWAY 0418 765 168

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Exciting opportunities exist for committed female and male soccer players to participate in this unique soccer program. Selected students will participate in a regular program of elite coaching by our international coach.

The scholarship includes:

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- Cost of uniform (both school & sport)
- School contributions
- Subsidised representative costs

The program includes:

- Individual player profile and report
- Ball skill development
- Individual analysis correction, tactical and technical skills
- Injury prevention and psychological preparation

TRIALS WILL BE HELD ON THE 21ST AND 28TH OCTOBER 2004

Soccer Prospectus and application forms are available from the school at
Sutherland Street, Mascot Ph: (02) 9669 5118, Fax: (02) 9667 4902, or contact:
Mr Juri Sadowskyj or Mr George Kokkorogiannis (Soccer Directors)
or Mr Jim Linton (Principal)

email: jjcahill-h.school@det.nsw.edu.au



"Windows to our Future"



DULWICH HILL SOCCER CLUB

Requires Super Youth League
Players for the 2005 Soccer Season

Dulwich Hill had three grand finalists this year, it is a true multicultural Soccer club and welcomes all who love Soccer and are keen to participate.



Where:

**Tempe Recreation Reserve,
Holbeach Ave, TEMPE**

When: Sunday 17th Oct & 24th Oct

Grade U13, U14 & 15 Time: 2.00pm — 4.00pm

Grade U16 & U18 Time: 4.00pm — 6.00pm

When: Tuesday 12th Oct, 19th Oct & 26th Oct

Grade U16 & U18 Time: 6.30pm — 8.30pm

When: Wednesday 13th Oct, 20th Oct & 27th Oct

Grade U13, U14 & U15 Time: 6.30pm — 8.30pm

Enquiries:

Director of Youth League: Carlos Perestrelo
PH: 0411 743 948

Youth League Co-Ordinator: Brian Fong
PH: 0419 255 951

Movie Review - The Football Factory packs a punch or two

THE 'FOOTBALL FACTORY' is a study of loyalty, football violence and male culture. The story centres around Tommy Johnson a bored twenty-something who lives for the weekend, casual sex, watered down lager, heavily cut drugs and occasionally kicking the f**k out of someone.

Tommy's life ambles along until a violent encounter with a rival firm starts a war and a series of nightmares force him to ask him the question about his life: is it worth it?

Told through Tommy's eyes and linked together by his relationships with three other generations of males, THE FOOT-

BALL FACTORY is a drug fuelled adrenaline rush of a story about friendship, revenge and violence.

This is England's worst nightmare. Enjoy it.

The story unfolds through the eyes of Tommy Johnson, a bored twenty-something. Tommy has always been involved in fighting, whether it was for the attention of a girl or off the football pitch, he has always been addicted to the rush. After a night out with his best mate Rod, he unintentionally upsets Millwall's head boy Fred. Soon a tit for tat revenge situation begins and Tommy starts to have recurring nightmares. Not having anyone to turn to he faces his fears head on and suffers the consequences.

Billy Bright is part of the older generation of The Firm, he is full of bitterness in what he sees as the country and system that have failed him. Away from the crowds he commands an audience to impress the younger guys, but he's a sad and isolated character whose life is fast spiralling out of control.

Fred heads the rival Millwall firm, the arch enemy of Chelsea. Things come to a head when Tommy inadvertently crosses path with him.

Zeberdee, a mouthy young guy coming through the ranks of The Firm has already run into a cul de sac of crime and drugs. Zeberdee aspires to be a future top boy, unfortunately his lack of intellectual guile gets him into hot water.

Rod is Tommy's oldest friend and confidante, ambling along the path lead by his mates. His life comes to a turning point when he meets the woman of his dreams only to find love has its strings attached and some strings are harder to break than others.

Second World War veteran Bill Farrell is in his mid seventies who is living out the remainder of his days with his childhood friend Albert Moss. Together they replace each others passed away wives and enjoy every day to the limit, still trying to pull women and getting drunk together. But when Albert dies Bill's life starts to fall apart as he struggles to cope with life on his own and a new future in Australia beckons.

When arch-rivals Chelsea draw Millwall in the FA cup, ardent Chelsea supporters Tommy, Billy and co start to plan the action off pitch. It's a big day for younger mem-

bers like Zeberdee who get the chance to prove themselves to the head boys. It's also an opportunity for old hands like Billy Bright to prove they still have the fighting power.

The date, time and place are set. A plan of action to avoid detection by the police is in motion. All Tommy has to do is hold his nerve and not let his paranoid nightmares get the better of him as he tries to stay out of the way of Fred who is vying for his blood.

Just as the match on pitch stops the fight off pitch begins.

Can the Chelsea Firm take on the Millwall Firm?

ABSW DOUBLE PASS GIVE-A-WAY

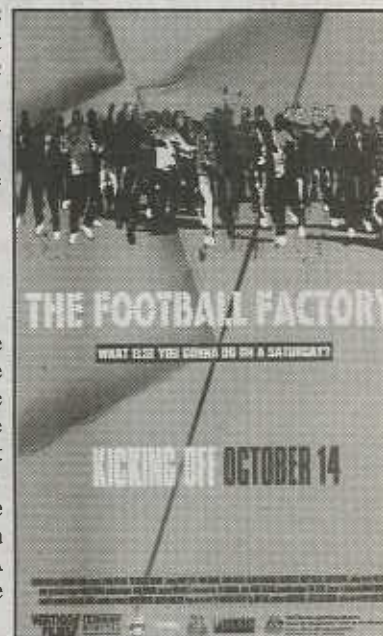
ABSW in conjunction with Kaleidoscope Films is proud to announce that it will be giving away 20 double passes to see the highly anticipated soccer movie 'The Football Factory' which screens on the 21st October.

For your chance to win, simply name the English Division One side that had a fan stabbed in their 3rd Round UEFA Cup clash against Hungarian side Ferencváros.

A clue would be that current Soccerroo defender Kevin Muscat is part of the team.

Email your answer along with your name and address details to:

absw@foreignlanguage.com.au - Competition closes on the 18th October.



University of NSW SOCCER CLUB

The prestigious UNSW Soccer Club is pleased to announce trial dates for the 2005 season for its girls' and women's squads.

We are looking for talented dedicated Soccer players who wish to further develop their skills.

UNSW Soccer Club offers a structured development pathway for players wishing to compete at a higher level.

Trials will be held at UNSW Sports Complex, David Phillips Field, Corner of Banks and Gwae Avenues Daceyville on:



Under 12s:
Tues 12/10/04 & Tues 19/10/04 5-8pm
Under 14s & Under 16s: Tues 12/10/04 & Tues 19/10/04 7-9pm
Women's Super League
First Grade & U21s:
Sunday 17/10/04 and Sunday 24/10/04 4pm-6pm

For further information please contact:
Jo-Anne Black (Girls Youth League)
joey2808@ihug.com.au or 0413 625 717
Sandra Stavrou (Women's Super League)
sandrastavrou@iprimus.com.au or 0438 092 677

NEWS FROM THE 'GONG

Boil-over at First Division Grand Final - A good crowd of around 2000 at Bulli's Balls Paddock witnessed at surprise 4-1 thrashing of league champion South Coast United by third placed Helensburgh Thistle in the recently completed competition - the out of town underdogs took

the glory. A telling feature was no doubt the tight marking of leading goal scorer of South Coast Denis Jurjevic, a player with NSW State league and NSL experience. Helensburgh's 19 year old defender Michael Bain was superb in blotting out the most dangerous attacker on the field. Assisted by out-

standing play from midfielders Andrew Paine, captain Luke Metcalfe, Ian Hall and Brian Bell the Helensburgh defence restrained a first half onslaught and domination by South Coast.

Michael Blain and Ian Hall were members of the Wolves youth grade touring England and France last April.

One can advise the Wollongong coaching staff without hesitation to secure the service of these two promising Helensburgh talents plus perhaps one of two others. If not for the Wolves youth squad, possibly club coach Adrian Alston might be interested to look at the youngsters for his senior team playing soon in the NSW Premier League.

Helensburgh started off with a real 'Blitzkrieg' to score two quick goals in 5 minutes with Billy Waters and Andrew Paine before South Coast United realised they faced a real tough and rough opponent.

For most of the first half South Coast looked the better composed outfit with Helensburgh struggling to contain the fluent attacks from their opposition. Helensburgh keeper Shane Duffy had to be on his toes to keep a clean sheet but could not stop Oliver Sekuloski to pull one goal back to a 2:1 score at the break.

In the second half the match developed into a dour struggle, a matter of stamina, legs tiring, physical resources and overall strength of the boys. As it turned out Helensburgh rebutted all well constructed moves from South Coast United. They surprised their opponents defence and

scored against the run of play two more goals coming from Brad Bell and Mark Balbi.

Both teams had their cheer squads in numbers, in full voice and unfortunately one section had to be disappointed with the other overjoyed.

The 'burgh' is smiling today and on their efforts deserved their triumph. On the other hand South Coast United can now concentrate on their achievement having gained promotion to the Premier League in 2005 being the first division league champion.

The Grand Final organisation went well, all three matches were played in good spirit. First Grade Grand Final referee Petar Vrtkovski needed all his experience to cool tempers, assistants Paul Herbert, Jay Ferguson and Steven Hood always ready to help.

In the lower grades reserves Fernhill won 3:1 over Woonona, goals from Troy Ritchie, Syd Julian, Terry Richardson and for Woonona Matthew Perkiss - referee Paul Fleming, assistants S. Evans, P. Aryton, Mick Agim.

For the next few month all players are enjoying a break from a long season (26 rounds) before they have to line up for another challenge.

Emergence of an Old Hand - Everybody within the local soccer fraternity knows Erik Thompson - an experienced soccer coach with youth graders and seniors alike. Erik has been appointed Wollongong Olympic Soccer Club senior coach after a rather surprise departure of last season's man.

This last season

Thompson was the club's Youth Development Officer and assistant coach.

Looking back over the years in soccer Erik Thompson coached for 9 seasons at University of Wollongong Soccer Club plus several seasons with now gone Fairy Meadow Soccer Club, Tarrawanna, Balgownie Rangers, Cringila Lions and joined this year Olympic.

His loyalty goes without challenge, always prepared to help when needed. Many years have past since Erik took up coaching but still maintains great enthusiasm for soccer in general.

Soccer Breakfast Successful - When first floated the idea of a Grand Final 'Breakfast' one week before the event at the Fraternity Club the Association did not know what to expect.

On the day over 220 turned up - supporters, players, coaches, prominence like Mr. Soccer Johnny Warren, officials of the clubs, much to the delight of the organisers.

Encouraged by the attendance figures it surely will be repeated next October.

A critical look at preparations to stage an entertaining finale of the highlights to celebrate soccer 2004 in Wollongong indicates increasing support from fans, clubs and sponsors. The Association is applying a more professional approach which was confirmed by a visiting Sydney business manager (following his son) who compared the ISA's efforts far more attractive than State League finals in Sydney he has attended recently.

MARCONI GIRLS & WOMENS TRIAL DATES

Under 12 - Friday 15/10/04 & Friday 22/10/04 at 6.00pm
Sunday 17/10/04 & Sunday 24/10/04 at 10.30am

Under 14 - Wednesday 13/10/04 & Wednesday 20/10/04 at 6.00pm
Sunday 17/10/04 & Sunday 24/10/04 at 12.00pm

Under 16 - Wednesday 13/10/04 & Wednesday 20/10/04 at 7.30pm
Sunday 17/10/04 & Sunday 24/10/04 at 1.30pm

Women's Super League and U21
Sunday 17/10/04, Sunday 24/10/04 & Sunday 31/10/04 at 3.00pm

All trials taking place on field 4, players to bring proper playing gear including boots and shin pads. Coaches and managers are also invited to apply. For further information contact Mr. Sam Papa after 5pm on 0425 346 014

Club Marconi Marconi Black, Bossley Park 2176 For the information of members & their guests

Rasic backs Farina

By Joe Russo

Australia's 1974 World Cup coach, **Rale Rasic**, has defended the sanctity of the position of national coach and said that players should never publicly criticise the person in charge.

And he has firmly laid the blame for the recent public spat between Frank Farina and Eddy Bosnar at the feet of the Australian Soccer Association.

Rasic said that the ASA were allowing too many names to be constantly bounced around in the media without firmly confirming the position of Farina as national coach.

"They [the ASA] should put up or shut up," he said. "Every week we are bombarded by a new name of someone supposedly taking over as national coach."

"The ASA must say that Farina is in charge until at least the 2006 World Cup and let him do his job. They should not create doubts about his job by letting this garbage go on in some parts of the media."

Rasic, who coached the Socceroos from 1970 until 1974, said that in the current climate players such as Bosnar are having a public dummy spit because they think that they can get away with it.

"They think that a new boss is coming so they have a go at Farina. Bosnar said on television that Ron Smith is to be credited for his good work with Australia if we qualify [for the 2006 World Cup] but where does that leave Farina?" he asked.

Rasic made it clear that he would never have tolerated such a situation. The twice NSL coach of the year said that had Bosnar spoke out against him, he would never have been considered for selection in Australia's team.

"Bosnar would never have been considered in his life if he said that about me," Rasic said. "It is unethical to speak out like that against the national coach."

"They think that a new boss is coming so they have a go at Farina. Bosnar said on television that Ron Smith is to be credited for his good work with Australia if we qualify [for the 2006 World Cup] but where does that leave Farina?" - Rale Rasic

"I was wondering where he is coming from when he said that. What does Bosnar know about Farina's work? He has never played for Australia."

"Players who criticise like that should not be considered. What entitles him to think that he should play for Australia ahead of others?"

Rasic asked.

The ASA also came under scrutiny from Rasic because the technical report of Dr Joe Venglos, that was commissioned some months ago, was never released.

"I will never stop asking what Dr Venglos said. As a taxpayer I have a right to know," he said.

Venglos, a former Socceroo coach too, was commissioned to produce a report into the technical state of the game in Australia but the content of that report was never publicly divulged.

Only a matter of months ago speculation was rife that Australia would have a Technical Director and a name such as Gerard Houllier



Former 1974 Socceroo coach Rale Rasic has defended Frank Farina with his recent team selection

coaching should never be compromised.

"You need to incorporate technology with practical coaching and it is a tragedy if this cannot be done," he said. "Practical coaching is spending hours on hours on one move that could win you a championship or a place in the World Cup."

Rasic said that the recent performance by the Olyroos in Athens is possibly one example where traditional, practical methods may have been neglected.

In late 2003 the Iraq

national team came to Perth hoping to play some games but was largely ignored by the soccer establishment. The irony was that it was the same Iraq that eliminated the Olyroos in the quarterfinals of Athens and this was not lost on Rasic.

"Nobody went to watch them play in Perth," he said. "They should have thought that one day we will need to play Iraq but they didn't bother. Isn't this practical coaching too? People need to do their homework."

"If we were so scientific, why didn't our computers work for the game against Iraq in Athens? We needed to do the basics and go watch them play in Perth."

Recently Australia's Youth Team and Under 17 coach Ange Postecoglou stated that Australia's technical development was fine. The assertion was based on the number of quality young players that have been produced and are now playing in the English Premier League.

Furthermore, Postecoglou compared Australia to Arsenal and argued that Australia have produced more than Arsenal because the Gunners have only produced Ashley Cole.

"This is a ridiculous comparison," Rasic stated. "Football is a global game and Arsene Wenger looks for the best players all around the

world and not just in England.

"Wenger has discovered so many players that nobody had heard of previously. He needs to be recognised for discovering such talent."

"Wenger's role is to discover the best players for Arsenal and not necessarily to develop the young talent of England. He has developed so many young players who have been from all parts of

the world.

"Coaches like Wenger, Ferguson, Mourinho, Santini and Benitez are all at the top clubs in England but none of them is English. Their role is to find the best talent for the club from anywhere around the world whereas our national coaches must develop and work with the talent in their own country," he concluded.



FRASER PARK F.C.

Super Youth League invite quality players for trials for Season 2005

TIMES AND LOCATION OF TRIALS
SUNDAYS: 17th October, 31st October and 7th November 2004

● 13/U 9am - 10:30am ● 14/U 10:30am - 12pm
● 15/U 12pm - 1:30pm ● 16/U 1:30pm - 3pm

WEEKDAYS:

13/U and 14/U 6:30pm - 8:30pm Tuesdays
(12th October, 19th October, 26th October and 2nd November)

15/U and 16/U 6:30pm - 8:30pm

Wednesdays (13th October, 20th October, 27th October and 3rd November)

18/U 6:30pm - 8:30pm Thursdays (14th October, 21st October, 28th October and 4th November)

Trials address:

Sydney Portugal Community Club

at 100 Marrickville Rd., Marrickville.

For all enquiries about the trials time and date please call:

0402 300 299, or 0418 405 568 and 0412 615 856

FRASER PARK F.C.

Super Youth League requires coaches with Accredited Senior Licence and managers for 2005 soccer season.

Age groups: Grade 13, Grade 14, Grade 15, Grade 16, and Grade 18.

Please forward your resume to the following:

Fax No: 9550 1857 or 8338 1399

E-mail address: spcc@tpg.com.au

Postal address:

P.O. Box 5026 Marrickville NSW 2204

***No applications will be accepted after Monday the 4th of October.**

21st October - D-Day for A-League

The new national football competition — aka the Australian Premier League — will be officially launched on 21 October 2004, with the first games kicking off in June 2005.

Speaking on 5AA this afternoon, Australian Soccer Association CEO John O'Neill said six of the eight sides are finalised - the six in question are understood to be Adelaide United, Queensland Lions,

Central Coast Mariners, Newcastle United, Football Kingz and Perth Glory.

Some more work needs to be done in Sydney and Melbourne, though he expects this to be completed shortly.

A tournament-style competition will kick off in June 2005 to determine Oceania's representative for the lucrative FIFA World Club Championship. This will be followed by a pre-season competition in July 2005, with the season proper kicking off in August 2005.

On Adelaide United, O'Neill confirmed the ASA had resolved outstanding issues. The two points resolved were:

a) Issues associated with playing at Hindmarsh Stadium

b) Structure of the new league

O'Neill said Adelaide United have struck an agreement with the SA Government that will provide them with greater access to the corporate facilities and improved signage. These changes made a material difference to the Adelaide United financial model, to the satisfaction of the Pickard Group.

O'Neill said the ASA had always agreed that the Australian Premier League should have a separate corporate structure. This was a key recommendation of the Crawford Report and was a long term goal of the ASA.

The ASA initially believed the Australian Premier League would benefit by coming under the wing of a



ASA CEO John O'Neill has stated that in two weeks, the official listing of the eight new national league clubs will be announced

financially strong big brother — the ASA — during the league's formation period. However, the ASA reached agreement with the franchise bidders last week to immediately move to a separate corporate structure for the new league.

The major sponsor, the eight successful teams and

the branding for the new League will be announced at an official launch on 21 October 2004.

The ASA are also expecting to shortly announce four new major sponsors and the holders of the free-to-air television rights for the Socceroos.

Late rival for Sydney FC bid

Soccer NSW president Tom Doumanis has criticised the Australian SA over their stand regarding the Sydney FC consortium.

ASA are insisting Soccer NSW be granted a 24 per cent stake in the franchise and the federation will meet this week to discuss the demand.

"To say Soccer NSW is bitterly disappointed with ASA's position is an understatement," Doumanis told the *Daily Telegraph*.

"A unique opportunity to embrace the soccer family behind the Sydney franchise may well have been lost."

Meanwhile, tribalfutbol.com understands there is some speculation in NSW of a rival bidder for the Sydney licence. The group is being put together through purely Sydney-based, private backers and already has sounded out a high-profile coach about spearheading their hastily organised bid. Much may depend on how Soccer NSW approach ASA's ownership demand for their Sydney FC bid.



GRANVILLE RAGE

Women's State League & Girls Youth League

Suitable Qualified Coaches Required for Season 2005

Women's State League

● First Grade ● U/21

Girls Youth League

● U/12, U/14, U16

Applications to email

granvillesoccer@optushome.com.au

or posted 20 Bulli Road, Toongabbie NSW 2146

Contact: **0412 009 986**

MUSCAT THANKFUL FOR SOCCEROO CALLUP

Renowned hardman Kevin Muscat is probably the luckiest player to be part of the Australian squad that faced the Solomon Islands, having only just returned to the game following a serious leg injury that threatened to end his career.

For some it would have been a touch ironic that Muscat's career might be ended by injury, when you consider the former South Melbourne defender has been involved in several high-profile incidents on the field that have earned him his reputation in England.

But Muscat has recovered from the injuries (ruptured medial ligament, fractured tibia and ruptured meniscus cartilage), suffered in the FA Cup Semi Final against Sunderland, and is back firing on all cylinders for Millwall and now thankfully for Australian coach Frank Farina, the national team as well.

Asked how close the injury came to ending his career, Muscat was fairly coy, saying "It came down to one thing and a concern with the fracture and it just depended on where the actual fracture was. You couldn't know that until I went in for the operation and until then there was a number of things that could happen, including a bone graft, a pin put in."

"Thankfully the position it was in was a low weight-bearing position, so I didn't have to have an operation on it."

The injury forced Muscat to miss what would have



Known to many as the hardest defender from Australia, Kevin Muscat was delighted to have received a re-call to the Socceroos squad.

arguably been the biggest moment of his club football career, last season's FA Cup Final against Manchester United, but Muscat is just thankful to be back playing again.

"Touchwood everything's okay," he said of his return. "I've played the last six games, albeit all in the last 17 days, so it's been quite hectic since I've come back, although I haven't had any real concerns."

"In terms of football, it's great to be playing again, but I could have done with less games immediately upon returning. I'm not going to complain though, because I am just so happy to be playing again."

Asked if he would play in another position in the backline other than his preferred

spot, Muscat simply said, "At the end of the day I am not going to pick and choose. I know where I prefer to play, but if asked to do something else (fill another position) I wouldn't have a problem with that."

While the international break could have provided Muscat with the ideal opportunity for a break, which his coaching and medical staff at Millwall wanted him to take, there was never any doubt on where he wanted to be.

"That (taking a break) was advised to me by the medical staff back home, but it never really entered my mind. I mean this is definitely my last campaign, so I want to keep myself involved and like I said, if there is an opportunity of playing I want to play."

Father bets son against Aussies

WELFARE authorities in the Solomon Islands have reacted with outrage after a local soccer fan reportedly offered his eight-year-old son as bait for a bet on the Solomons' clash with Australia.

The Confederations Cup qualifier which was played on Saturday was recorded as the biggest sporting event in the history of the Solomons

which, just over a year ago, was struggling against bankruptcy following a three-year civil war.

The Solomon Star newspaper said Filia Mamae wanted to find an Australian willing to wager \$US100,000 (\$138,300) in exchange for his son.

Should the Solomons win, Mamae would get the money but if Australia won he would hand over his son, the state-

owned Solomon Islands Broadcasting (SIBC) reported.

SIBC said National Advisory Council on Children chairman Peter Forau was appalled and stated that it was incomprehensible that a father could even think about using his child as a bet. Forau called on the father to stop his plan and not even use it as a joke.

The Solomons civil war

ended last year when an Australian-led Pacific military and police force restored order.

The game was a sell-out at the 21,000-capacity Lawson Tama Park last Saturday.

Police Operations Inspector Lazarus Taki told SIBC more than 100 Solomons and Pacific police would provide security.

PFA Helps Curcija Close Chapter on Portuguese Pain



Former South Melbourne striker Michael Curcija has tidied up his nightmare contract with Portuguese club Braga

Former Olyroo striker Michael Curcija closed the book on his Portuguese nightmare with a victory at the FIFA Dispute Resolution Chamber last week.

Having returned to South Melbourne in the National Soccer League at the start of last season after a traumatic final 12 months in Europe, Curcija was awarded unpaid wages and compensation by FIFA for contractual breaches by his former club, Braga.

Action by the Australian Professional Footballers Association (PFA) initially enabled Curcija to leave Braga to join South Melbourne, before the PFA pursued the club through FIFA for damages.

PFA Lawyer John Didulica was delighted with the outcome and is relieved Curcija will not have been too disadvantaged by the actions of his former club.

"Our main priority is always to ensure that the player is able to continue his employment and development as a footballer, which after some effort, we were able to do."

"In addition to that, we continued to pursue the club for entitlements that Michael was due, to ensure that his loss

did not subsidize the club's mismanagement of his career. With this win, we were able to do that."

Curcija, who was voted by the media as the Victorian Premier League Player of the Year after 17 goals for Essendon, was equally as buoyed by the result.

"The club thought it could bully me out of my career, but I refused to let them. With the support of the PFA I was able to fight them as hard as they were fighting me."

"The struggle in Portugal did set me back a bit in terms of development but I have rediscovered my best form in the past 12 months and am looking forward to playing a part in the new league."

PFA Chief Executive Rob Anderson sees situations such as Curcija's as highlighting the need for a strong domestic competition and a more clearly defined career path into European football for Australia's elite players.

"To be constantly presented with the ordeals some players endure in order to make a living out of football is a major worry. It really highlights the need for the ASA to ensure that this new Australian competition is of a quality that is able to attract and retain our top players and offers them a career path that safeguards their welfare."



Elite world youth teams to gather in Adelaide

Two Australian teams will feature in the next International Soccer Challenge in Adelaide in January.

The U20 tournament was officially announced last Wednesday afternoon, including the competing teams.

This time round, an AIS team will be joined by an elite South Australian line-up in the competition.

AC Milan, Aston Villa and Barcelona head the cast, which also include Dinamo Zagreb, Tokyo Verdy, and a Malaysian select team.

The SA team will be coached by Adelaide United's

John Kosmina, with assistant Aurelio Vidmar and SASI coach Martyn Crook on the selection panel.

Adelaide's International Soccer Challenge has been an instant success with the locals and soccer pundits from across the globe ever since it start two years ago.

class youth squads from across the globe.

This tournament will be a great indication to see where our young Aussie stars are at compared to the rest of the world.

Known in creating the best youth players in Australia, the AIS led by coach and former Socceroo Steve O'Connor will be eagerly preparing for this exciting tournament.

Hindmarsh Stadium will of course be the venue for all matches.

The Festival Cup as it was known since its early beginnings in South Australia will be covered in thorough detail by ABSW.



Known for its rich soccer heritage, the Adelaide locals have been treated to some amazing displays of youth football thanks to the invitations set out to various top

"Door is still open for Bosnar" - Farina



The Socceroos door is still open for Croatian bound Eddy Bosnar

Australia coach Frank Farina hasn't closed the door on Everton defender Eddy Bosnar.

Farina also defended his policy of texting players that they have been omitted from his squads.

"We have to inform the players somehow and it's not always easy to contact them," Farina told the Daily Post.

"Eddy was the only player who complained about being informed by text message."

"If Eddy does not want to play for

the Socceroos that is disappointing and is entirely his decision, but the door is still open for him."

Tim (Cahill) has always made it clear to me that he wants to play for Australia, but Eddy Bosnar has not even broken into the Everton first team yet, and now he says he wants to play for Croatia.

"It's very disappointing because with the number of injuries we have Eddy might have played against the Solomon Islands. I am not sure who he thinks should be dropped to accommodate him?"

Schoolboys run riot over Kiwis

By Nick Guoth

The best ever Australian Schoolboys team. That was a statement used on a number of occasions after the completion of their recent tour of New Zealand. Certainly, it has been one of the most successful at least.

The Schoolboys, selected from the August Schools National Championships in Adelaide, went through the five games in Christchurch with a 100 per cent record. It wasn't until the final minute of time added-on in the fourth game that the Australians had conceded a goal. The Boys finished with 25 goals for and 3 against.

They played a two-Test series against New Zealand with a pair of warm-up matches and an exhibition game on the final day.

Led by Chris Camilleri, who captained the team with inspiration and control, the team commenced proceedings of the tour with a convincing 9-0 win over a local select team. Tarek Elrich was the star of the first game with four scores, get-

ting his trip off to a good start.

This was followed up on the second day with a game against a select U18's and U20's Christchurch side. Camilleri again shined when he scored two of the three goals in the win.

The two Test series was played midway during the trip, with the first game at night and the second during the day. The Australians were nervous in the opening Test and struggled to play, allowing the New Zealanders to compete. A looping header from Camilleri was enough to give the Australians a one goal advantage going into the second match. With the media hyping up the chances of the local team, the Australians silenced this when they finally came out of their shell and comprehensively overwhelmed their opposition to the tune of 7-1.

Dario Vidosic, who did not make it on to the field in the first Test, made his mark in this match with an International hat-trick.

The final game showed the team to be somewhat tired and a number of fatigue injuries became more prominent. Brody Crane, having

been a hero between the sticks in the first Test, was given a run on the field, and proved his worth with two goals in the 5-2 victory.

All the players performed superbly throughout the tour, yet it was more the coaching of John Romeo that probably made a big difference.

His ability to motivate the players and get his tactics instilled into the team with only a few days available showed true skills.

The next Australian Schoolboys team will assemble at the same time in 2005 for another series against New Zealand in either Sydney or Canberra. They will, the following January, tour the United Kingdom.

Australian Schoolboys Team: Chris Camilleri (Captain), Nigel Boogaard (vice-captain), Brody Crane, Joshua Mears, Daniel Wilkinson, Mathew Grbesa, Stephen Kayes, Scott Paterson, Ryan Stenhouse, Dario Vidosic, Ben Gough, Semir Sivic, James Stefanou, Tony Dulevski, Gianni de Nittis, Tarek Elrich. Coach: John Romeo.



The victorious Australian Schoolboys side

Manager: Nick Guoth
Tour Leader: Chris Conti
 Australia v Western Select 9-0 (Elrich 4, Kayes 2, Camilleri, Gough, De Nittis)
 Australia v Christchurch U18/U20 Select 3-0 (Camilleri, De Nittis)
1st Test: Australia v New Zealand 1-0 (Camilleri)
2nd Test: Australia v New Zealand 7-1 (Vidosic 3, Boogaard, Camilleri, Dulevski, Elrich)
 Australia v Technical U19 5-2 (Crane 2, Camilleri 2, Kayes)

Adelaide United back in the frame

Australian Soccer Association Chief Executive John O'Neill labelled the signing of the participation agreement for the new national competition by the Pickard Group (Adelaide United) as a great outcome for Adelaide and a fantastic result for Australian soccer.

Last week the Pickard Group withdrew its application for the new national competition but with the South Australian Premier the Hon. Mike Rann on hand to witness the signing, Adelaide was today confirmed as part of the new competition set to begin next year.

It's a terrific result, said Mr O'Neill.

All parties including the

South Australian Government, Hindmarsh Stadium, the Pickard Group and the Australian Soccer Association approached the obstacles with open minds and a common commitment to achieve this outcome. That Adelaide United has



wholeheartedly embraced the new national competition in this way is a real boost to the competition. I would like to thank the Premier for his extraordinary effort and interest in facilitating this outcome. This shows that the politics

of sport and business can work in harmony to achieve the desired results and this is certainly a great outcome for Adelaide and a fantastic result for Australian soccer. With the Fox Sports broadcast deal in place and a naming right sponsor to be

announced shortly after the announcement is another vote of confidence in the new competition. e and the Australian Sports Commission

The news of Adelaide re-joining the new league has again put a glow in the refor-

mation of the new competition led under the Frank Lowy regime. Adelaide United coach John Kosmina was one delighted coach upon hearing the news that his squad had re-entered the league.

"It was music to my ears when we heard once more we were in."

"I had my whole program set out in time for the new league and now I get to exercise that once more."

"Everyone in the Australian game knows that there really is no nationwide competition without Adelaide", Kosmina stated.

It is believed that the 14 October will herald the final decision on who the eight clubs will fair in next year's league but again a later date could be evident.

McDonald is an Aussie - Farina



Motherwell's Scott McDonald striker is still regarded as true blue Australian and not a Scotsman according to the player and Socceroo coach

Australia coach Frank Farina insists he regards Motherwell striker Scott McDonald as part of his plans - not Scotland's. Scotland have been trying to convince McDonald to play for the U21s, but the Well striker has so far rejected their requests.

"There have been a few misquotes at this end, saying I am Scottish through and through," McDonald told The Age.

"That's certainly not the case, but if I was approached it's something I would have to think about and discuss with my family. I am at a point where I would consider all my options, but I have not jumped into anything and I am not going to make a hasty decision."

Farina said: "I consider him (McDonald) to be an Australian and eligible to play for the Australian team. I am not aware that he has changed his mind."

McDonald has represented the Australians at U17, U20 and U23 level and has been considered by many as one of this country's most exciting young prospects.

Adelaide had other supporters

According to a report on South Australian local radio station 5AA last week South Australian transport magnate Allan Scott had vowed to throw his financial support behind Adelaide United.

Scott was only to step in if Gordon Pickard's bid did not proceed. According to the report, Scott will shift all his financial support from AFL football club Port Power to Adelaide United.

One of the key reasons behind Scott's decision is that Port Power has now established itself and no longer needs his financial support.

Allan Scott is one of the wealthiest individuals in South Australia and his support would be a huge bonus for local South Australian football.

Scott, a Mount Gambier-based businessman, is reported to be worth more than \$300 million through his trucking and media businesses.

He donated \$1 million towards the cost of Port Power's administration/training facility, officially named the Allan Scott Power Headquarters, and has pumped an estimated \$5m into the club since 1997.

Why bidders were upset with ASA

In the plight of Adelaide United's exit from a new National League placing has seen many opinions and ideas express by various soccer pundits about why they withdrew their bid.

Along with Adelaide, a number of other hopeful bidders jumped the bandwagon in stating their fury against various demands the ASA put forward in order of a successful application.

Below are some of the main issues that sidetracked various bids.

*Clubs dislike the ASA intellectual property clause - meaning that the core



of any franchise, including trademarks, colours and uniforms is owned by the ASA.

*The inability to generate serious income.

*Only 21 minor rounds plus three

playoff rounds - all franchises wanted a minimum of 28 rounds.

*No free-to-air television - Foxtel has signed the exclusive rights.

*The ASA has asked for an extra 20 advertising signs and more corporate facilities at each stadium.

*The proposed kickoff date is August 11, 2005 - in the middle of the football season (AFL and ARL).

*The franchises have asked for the league to be run under a separate company, with bank accounts jointly controlled by the ASA and the franchises.



WORLD RANKINGS

Rank	Team	Points
1	Brazil	835
2	France	813
3	Spain	792
4	Czech Republic	762
5	Netherlands	748
6	Mexico	743
7	USA	735
8	England	733
9	Italy	729
10	Turkey	723
11	Argentina	722
12	Portugal	715
12	Germany	715
14	Greece	710
15	Denmark	706
16	Cameroon	702
16	Republic of Ireland	702
18	Nigeria	697
19	Sweden	686
20	Korea Republic	670
21	Iran	664
21	Saudi Arabia	664
23	Croatia	662
24	Japan	660
24	Belgium	660
26	Russia	655
27	Poland	653
28	Senegal	651
29	Paraguay	650
29	Costa Rica	650
31	Morocco	646
32	Romania	638
32	Uruguay	638
34	Egypt	637
35	Tunisia	634
36	Colombia	622
37	Ecuador	616
38	Norway	613
39	South Africa	610
40	Jordan	605
41	Bulgaria	602
42	Slovenia	598
43	Iraq	582
44	Finland	578
45	Switzerland	577
46	Mali	576
46	Zimbabwe	576
48	Serbia and Montenegro	574
49	Jamaica	565
50	Venezuela	562
51	Bahrain	559
52	Australia	556
53	Latvia	555
54	Honduras	553
54	Qatar	553
56	Kuwait	552
57	Algeria	550
58	Oman	548
59	Scotland	545
60	Israel	544
61	Wales	541
62	Côte d'Ivoire	539
63	Trinidad and Tobago	536
64	China PR	535
64	Thailand	535
66	Chile	534
66	Cuba	534
66	Slovakia	534
69	Congo DR	532
70	Libya	525
71	United Arab Emirates	523
71	Ghana	523
73	Bosnia-Herzegovina	522
74	Zambia	521
75	Peru	518
75	Iceland	518
77	Ukraine	515
78	Hungary	514
78	Angola	514
80	Uzbekistan	513
80	Burkina Faso	513

GERRARD GONE FOR TWO MONTHS

Liverpool captain Steven Gerrard has undergone an operation to insert a screw into a broken bone in his foot.

The England midfielder suffered the injury in a 2-1 league defeat by Manchester United on September 20 and will be out of action for two months.

A Liverpool spokesman told the club's website: "We are confident that this minor operation will not delay his rehabilitation period of eight weeks."

The injury has ruled Gerrard out of Liverpool's league campaign and England's World Cup qualifiers in Group Six against Wales and Azerbaijan.

MAGPIES PAY THE PENALTY



Aaron Hughes: A crucial penalty shoot-out miss in last season's Champions League qualifying round cost Newcastle United in excess of 10 million pounds.

A missed penalty cost Newcastle United up to 10 million pounds in television revenue last year as the Premier League club announced a six per cent drop in turnover in its annual results.

Preliminary figures also revealed a 6.2 million pounds fall in group turnover to 90.2 million pounds for the year ending July 31, as Newcastle's failure to qualify for the Champions League came back to haunt them.

Total operating profit was also hit, falling 3.3 million pounds to 8.3 million, with the main culprit being a bad night at St James' Park against Partizan Belgrade.

Drawn in the final round of the qualifiers for world football's most lucrative club competition, Newcastle won the away leg 1-0 but lost the return game 1-0 after extra time, landing themselves with a penalty shootout.

Alan Shearer, Kieron Dyer and Jermaine Jenas all missed but the scores were pegged at 3-3 before a decisive shot over the bar by Aaron Hughes teed up Partizan's Milivoje Cirkovic to win it 4-3, and send Newcastle United into the UEFA Cup.

Though they enjoyed a run to the semi-finals of that competition, last week's results announced to the Stock Exchange stated: "Participation in the 2003/04 UEFA Cup competition compared to the 2002/03 Champions League campaign resulted in a 10.1 million pound fall in television income."

Newcastle, who appointed Graeme Souness as team manager last month after the sacking of Bobby Robson, sold England defender Jonathan Woodgate to Real Madrid in August for 20 million euro (\$24.61 million) and that deal will be included in next year's accounts.

Spain coach in Racist Remark

Spain's national coach Luis Aragonés could be in trouble for referring to Arsenal's French striker Thierry Henry as a 'nigger'.

The outburst came during a training session as Aragonés prepared his team for World Cup qualifiers against Belgium and Lithuania.

According to journalists watching the training session,

Aragonés was trying to gee up Henry's Arsenal teammate Jose Antonio Reyes and shouted across to him: "Tell the nigger (Henry) you are better than him. Tell him from me".

Reyes, who has teamed up to great effect with Henry in the English Premiership this season, played down the comment afterwards.

"It was just a laugh. This is something concerning the

team and should remain among us."

The chain-smoking Aragonés, 65 and with 1000 games under his belt as a player and coach, has a reputation as a man not known for being a shrinking violet and is known as the Sage of Hortaleza.

But he does not have a reputation as a racist.

Former African player of the year, Cameroon striker



Spain coach Luis Aragonés (right) talks with player Jose Antonio Reyes.

SOCCEEROOS UP FOR TIDY BONUS

The 32 teams who take part in the 2006 World Cup finals will each receive \$US8.2 million in appearance money -- an increase of 38 per cent on the finals in Korea and Japan in 2002.

FIFA announced an increased bonus pool of \$US262.9 million, compared to the \$US190 million offered in 2002.

FIFA have also set up a one million US dollar fund for Caribbean football associations whose facilities were damaged by last month's hurricanes.

There was less cheerful news for the Niger football association which was suspended with immediate effect as a result of what FIFA described as "repeated interference from political authorities in the association's business."

FIFA has also set deadlines for the associa-

tions of Ethiopia, Greece and Nigeria to "resolve their internal problems."

MEANWHILE FIFA has fined Italy, the Netherlands and France for being too lenient with doping offenders.

The Italian and Dutch federations were fined \$8,000, while the French will pay \$11,500 for failing to abide by FIFA's minimum rules -- a six-month suspension plus a fine -- for punishing drug infractions.

The three associations were warned that if they continue to inadequately punish such offences, FIFA will impose harsher sanctions.

FIFA has also ruled that confederation champions from Europe and South America are no longer obligated to take part in the Confederations Cup.

In addition, after the 2007 Women's World



Socceroos could receive a record appearance fee for qualifying for the 2006 World Cup finals in Germany.

Cup, the men's and women's World Cups will be played in the same year, starting with 2010. The move was designed to give a two-year interval between the Olympics and Women's World Cup -- currently there is a one-year gap.



World Cup Qualifying



PERFECT START FOR PEKERMANN AS BRAZIL HITS HIGH FIVE

Argentina and Brazil scored crushing victories in their World Cup qualifiers, the former beating Uruguay 4-2 in Buenos Aires and the world champions romping home 5-2 in Venezuela.

Argentina, playing their first match under new coach Jose Pekerman, raced into a 4-0 lead after 54 minutes with a Luciano Figueroa double and a goal apiece from Luis Gonzalez and Javier Zanetti.

Cristian Rodriguez and Javier Chevanton, from a twice-taken penalty, made the scoreline respectable for Uruguay.

Two goals each from Kaka and Ronaldo and one by Adriano, seven minutes after coming off the substitutes' bench, put Brazil 5-0 ahead in Maracaibo. Ronaldo's brace took his tally to nine in the qualifiers.

Ruberth Moran then pulled two back, doubling Venezuela's tally of goals in their 16 meetings with Brazil, who have won them all.

Venezuela could be in serious trouble after two fans went on to the field in the second half to hug Roberto Carlos and Ronaldo.

In other games, Colombia wasted a hatful of chances as they were held 1-1 by Paraguay in Barranquilla while Bolivia stayed bottom of the group table despite beating Peru 1-0 in a scrappy match in La Paz.

Pekerman, who took over last month after Marcelo Bielsa unexpectedly ended his six-year reign, admitted to first-night nerves against Uruguay but they were quickly calmed by Gonzalez's sixth-minute opener.

Figueroa, standing in for the injured

Hernan Crespo, and Zanetti finished off incisive moves to make it 3-0 before half-time and then Figueroa latched on to Juan Roman Riquelme's pass for the fourth goal.

As the South American World Cup qualifying section reaches the halfway

mark, Brazil lead with 19 points from nine games with Argentina one point behind. Both look certain to qualify for Germany 2006.

The top four teams qualify for the finals and the fifth play off against the Oceania region winners for another place.



Brazilian soccer star Ronaldo (left) clears the ball past Venezuelan player Jose Manuel Rey.

RESULTS

Argentina 4 Uruguay 2, Bolivia 1 Peru 0, Colombia 1 Paraguay 1, Brazil 5 Venezuela 2, Ecuador 2 Chile 0.

	MP	W	D	L	GF	GA	Pts
Brazil	9	5	4	0	19	10	19
Argentina	9	5	3	1	18	9	18
Paraguay	9	4	3	2	11	9	15
Ecuador	9	4	1	4	10	8	13
Chile	9	3	3	3	9	9	12
Venezuela	9	3	1	5	8	13	10
Uruguay	9	3	1	5	15	23	10
Colombia	9	2	3	4	11	11	9
Peru	9	2	3	4	10	11	9
Bolivia	9	3	0	6	11	19	9

Next Round

Bolivia vs Uruguay (Oct 12)
Paraguay vs Peru (Oct 13)
Chile vs Argentina (Oct 13)
Brazil vs Colombia (Oct 13)
Venezuela vs Ecuador (Oct 14)

US SECURE CRUCIAL AWAY WIN

Brian McBride and debutant Eddie Johnson gave the United States a 2-0 victory over El Salvador in their World Cup qualifier.

The win by the Americans strengthened their grip at the top of the CONCACAF region Group A table, with eight points from four games. El Salvador remain bottom on three points.

The U.S. carved out several early chances and it was no surprise when McBride struck in the 29th minute.

Kerry Zavagnin collected a quick throw-in from DaMarcus Beasley and found McBride, who lashed the ball in from 17 metres.

It was the Fulham striker's 26th international goal and his seventh against El Salvador in six games.

Johnson doubled the lead for the Americans when he tapped in a pass from Landon Donovan 15 minutes from time.

Meanwhile substitute Danilo Turcios snatched an equaliser in



Honduras' Danilo Turcios celebrates his goal in the 1-1 draw against Canada.

the second minute of injury time to earn Honduras a 1-1 home draw with Canada.

The Mexican-based midfielder, who replaced Edgard Alvarez in the 74th minute, fired home from inside the penalty area as Honduras maintained their unbeat-

en record in Group B.

Canada, without a win in their four games, took a shock lead when midfielder Atiba Hutchinson, who plays for Swedish club Helsingborgs, shot into the net amid a crowd of defenders following a corner in the

SUPER EAGLES DOWN BUT NOT OUT

Portsmouth striker Yakubu Aiyegbeni rescued his side from a World Cup setback with a second half equaliser as Nigeria kept top place in Group Four of the African qualifiers with a 1-1 draw in Gabon.

Aiyegbeni pounced on a loose ball in the penalty area four minutes into the second half to secure an away point for the injury-hit Super Eagles.

Gabon had surprised with a strong first half performance, culminating in a 28th minute opener from Thierry Issimeou after a cross from the Portuguese-based midfielder Henri Antchoutet.

Nigeria dominated the second half with strong performances from Aiyegbeni, Peter Odemwingie from French club Lille and Everton defender Joseph Yobo. Libya snatched a late goal to upset neighbours Egypt 2-1.

Nader Kara gave the Libyan Greens a first-half lead, Amr Zaki levelled soon after half-time and Ahmed Osman struck an 84th-minute winner to lift his team into contention in Group three.

Benni McCarthy converted a penalty on 63 minutes as South Africa went to the top of group two with a 1-0 victory over Uganda in a dour qualifier.

Angola striker Flavio scored the only goal against Zimbabwe to take his unfancied team to the top of African zone Group Four.

Flavio scored after 52 minutes to give unbeaten Angola their third single-goal home win in the group and leave them with 11 points from five matches at the halfway stage of the campaign.

GROUP ONE

Togo	1	Mali	0
Liberia	0	Senegal	3
Congo	2	Zambia	3

	P	W	D	L	GF	GA	Pts
Senegal	5	3	1	1	9	5	10
Togo	5	3	1	1	6	2	10
Zambia	5	3	1	1	6	4	10
Congo	5	2	0	3	6	7	6
Liberia	5	1	1	3	1	7	4
Mali	5	0	2	3	3	6	2

GROUP TWO

Cape Verde	1	Burkina Faso	0
Uganda	0	South Africa	1
Ghana	0	Congo DR	0

	P	W	D	L	GF	GA	Pts
South Africa	5	3	0	2	5	5	9
Ghana	5	2	2	1	6	2	8
Congo DR	5	2	2	1	5	4	8
Cape Verde Islands	5	2	1	2	4	5	7
Burkina Faso	5	2	0	3	5	6	6
Uganda	5	1	1	3	2	5	4

GROUP THREE

Sudan	1	Cameroon	1
Libya	2	Egypt	1
Benin	0	Cote d'Ivoire	1

	P	W	D	L	GF	GA	Pts
Cote d'Ivoire	5	4	0	1	10	3	12
Libya	5	3	1	1	7	4	10
Cameroon	5	2	2	1	7	5	8
Egypt	5	2	1	2	11	9	7
Benin	5	0	2	3	6	11	2
Sudan	5	0	2	3	2	11	2

GROUP FOUR

Gabon	1	Nigeria	1
Rwanda	1	Algeria	1
Angola	1	Zimbabwe	0

	P	W	D	L	GF	GA	Pts
Angola	5	3	2	0	5	2	11
Nigeria	5	3	1	1	7	2	10
Gabon	5	1	3	1	8	7	6
Zimbabwe	5	1	2	2	4	6	5
Rwanda	5	1	1	3	4	7	4
Algeria	5	0	3	2	2	6	3



World Cup Qualifying



DOUBLE DUTCH DRAW WITH MACEDONIA

Macedonia twice came from behind to hold the Netherlands to a surprise 2-2 draw in their World Cup Group One qualifier.

"We played well and stopped the Dutch wings which was crucial... This is a big day for us," said Macedonia coach Dragan Kanatlarovski.

Finland and Romania have nine points from four matches with the Netherlands, who have played two games, and Macedonia on four points.

The Dutch, Euro 2004 semi-

finalists and off to a good start in their World Cup campaign with a win over the Czech Republic, had gone close through Pierre van Hooijdonk before they were gifted a 43rd-minute lead.

Macedonian goalkeeper Jane Nikolovski, under pressure from Wilfred Bouma, slammed a Wesley Sneijder corner into his own goal.

The home side, spurred forward by the promptings of skipper Artim Sakiri, equalised just before halftime with Goran Pandev following up to net from close range



Dutch soccer players celebrate the first goal against Macedonia.

after Ace Stojkov's effort had rebounded to him.

Nikolovski kept out a Nigel de Jong header but Dirk Kuijt restored the Dutch lead midway through the second period.

Macedonia secured a famous and deserved point 20 minutes from time when Pandev set up Stojkov, who fooled goalkeeper Edwin van der Sar to score at the near post.

"This is not a satisfying result but Macedonia were very tough opponents," said Dutch coach Marco van Basten.

"We didn't play well and had a poor passing game, while they surprised us twice on the counter-attack."

Group One

Czech Republic	1	Romania	0
Finland	3	Armenia	1
Macedonia	2	Netherlands	2

Next Round (October 13)

Netherlands vs Finland
Armenia vs Czech Republic
Andorra vs Macedonia

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Finland	4	3	0	1	9	3	9
Romania	4	3	0	1	9	4	9
Macedonia FYR	3	1	1	1	6	4	4
Netherlands	2	1	1	0	4	2	4
Czech Republic	2	1	0	1	1	2	3
Andorra	2	0	0	2	1	8	0
Armenia	3	0	0	3	1	8	0

GREECE SALVAGE DRAW BUT OFF PACE

Hosts Ukraine and reigning European champions Greece fought out a 1-1 draw in their World Cup qualifier in Kiev.

Andrei Shevchenko scored the opening goal for Ukraine, while Vasileos Tsiartas was on target for Greece.

The result left Ukraine with five points from three matches, while Greece grabbed only their second point also after three games.

Four minutes after the interval Shevchenko put Ukraine 1-0 up with a freekick from the left of the

box with the flying over the wall and between Nikopolidis's legs.

The Greeks poured forward in attack, looking for an equaliser and second-half substitute Tsiartas saved the day for his side, stunning the local crowd with a 28-metre freekick into the top left-handed corner past Shovkovsky's outstretched hands with eight minutes remaining.

Turkey striker Fatih Tekke scored two late goals to seal a resounding 4-0 victory for his country over Kazakhstan.

The victory brought Turkey

their first win in the group after draws against Georgia and Greece. Kazakhstan are yet to earn a point.

Denmark's Martin Jorgensen and Jon Dahl Tomasson struck to end Albania's two-year unbeaten home record with a 2-0 win in a World Cup qualifier on Saturday.

Jorgensen scored with a shot deflected by defender Besnik Hasi in the 52nd minute before Jon Dahl Tomasson took advantage of a perfect ball into the area that wrong-footed several defenders to score with a low shot under the diving Strakosha in the 74th minute.

Group Two

Ukraine	1	Greece	1
Turkey	4	Kazakhstan	0
Albania	0	Denmark	2

Next Round (October 13)

Denmark vs Turkey
Kazakhstan vs Albania
Ukraine vs Georgia

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Turkey	3	1	2	0	5	1	5
Ukraine	3	1	2	0	4	3	5
Denmark	2	1	1	0	3	1	4
Georgia	2	1	1	0	3	1	4
Albania	3	1	0	2	2	5	3
Greece	3	0	2	1	2	3	2
Kazakhstan	2	0	0	2	1	6	0



Greece's Tranos Dellas (right) goes up for the ball against Ukraine's Andrei Voronin.

LITTLE LIECHTENSTEIN HUMBLE PORTUGAL

Euro 2004 runners-up Portugal, boasting millions of dollars worth of playing talent, suffered a humiliating World Cup setback when they were held to a 2-2 draw by the part-timers of Liechtenstein.

The Portuguese had gone into the match with a perfect six points from two matches scoring six goals with conceding.

However they were 2-0 up at half-time thanks to a 23rd minute opener from Pauleta and a 39th minute own goal from Daniel Hasler.



(from left) Portugals' Nuno Ribeiro, Paulo Ferreira and Ricardo Carvalho, react in frustration as Liechtenstein's player Andreas Gerster (centre) celebrates a goal by teammate Thomas Beck.

But Liechtenstein, with two defeats from two games and nine goals conceded, refused to buckle against their superstar visitors and pulled one back three minutes after the interval through Franz Burgmeier.

Incredibly, Thomas Beck then made it 2-2 with 14 minutes left to give the tiny nation their first point in the competition.

The defeat also left them three points behind group leaders Slovakia who beat Latvia 4-1.

Russia, helped by a Dmitri Sychev hat-trick, scored four times in 31 second-half minutes to secure a 4-0 win in Luxembourg and remain in contention.

Group Three

Luxembourg	0	Russia	4
Slovakia	4	Latvia	1
Liechtenstein	2	Portugal	2

Next Round (October 13)

Portugal vs Russia
Luxembourg vs Liechtenstein
Latvia vs Estonia

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Slovakia	4	3	1	0	15	3	10
Portugal	3	2	1	0	8	2	7
Estonia	3	2	0	1	6	5	6
Russia	2	1	1	0	5	1	4
Latvia	3	1	0	2	5	9	3
Liechtenstein	3	0	1	2	3	11	1
Luxembourg	4	0	0	4	4	15	0

IRELAND HOLD FEEBLE FRANCE IN PARIS

Former world and European champions France were held to a goalless draw by a spirited Ireland side in a tense World Cup qualifier.

Buoyed by a sea of green, white and orange - over 25,000 Irish supporters had come to watch this first meeting between the two countries in 15 years - Irish hopes were high of a first win in Paris since 1937.

A tough physical contest was predicted and that's what the packed Stade de France were served up with the Irish emerging the moral winners.

France coach Raymond Domenech said he wasn't too disappointed by the result.

"I would have preferred the three points, but many teams drew their matches tonight. I am not angry, quite the contrary."

The visitors' defence led by Cunningham manfully soaked up any pressure the French threw at them, although Shay Given was at full stretch to tip Robert Pires' 38th minute shot wide of the right post.

Robbie Keane, seeking an Irish record 22nd goal, will have rued a missed opportunity when one-on-

one with Barthez but seconds later as Ireland turned on the heat Kilbane had his head in his hands after watching his shot trickle wide with Barthez out of his goal.

Israel and Switzerland gained a deserved point each in their 2-2 draw.

Two spectacular goals from midfielder Yossi Benayoun saved Israel while the Swiss recovered from an early deficit with two strikes midway through the first half to take the lead through Alexander Frei and Johan Vonlanthen.

Group Four

Cyprus	2	Faroe Islands	2
France	0	Ireland	0
Israel	2	Switzerland	2

Next Round (October 13)

Cyprus vs France
Ireland vs Faroe Islands

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Switzerland	3	1	2	0	9	3	5
Ireland Republic	3	1	2	0	4	1	5
France	3	1	2	0	2	0	5
Israel	3	1	2	0	4	3	5
Cyprus	3	0	1	2	3	7	1
Faroe Islands	3	0	1	2	2	10	1



Ireland's Kevin Kilbane runs with the ball followed by France's Robert Pires.



World Cup Qualifying



AZZURRI FEELING BLUE AFTER SHOCK LOSS

Italy's hopes of securing an automatic place at the 2006 World Cup finals suffered a major setback after they lost 1-0 to Slovenia in the driving rain.

Bostjan Cesar's header eight minutes from time gave the home side a dramatic victory and enabled Slovenia to replace Italy at the top of Group Five.

Italy's defeat was their first in a World Cup qualifying match since May 1, 1994 when they lost away to Switzerland.

Slovenia top the group with seven points from three matches,

one ahead of Italy, who had won their first two games against Norway and Moldova.

Italy coach Marcello Lippi insisted his team deserved better having dominated possession and enjoyed the greater number of chances.

Italy came within inches of taking an early lead when Alberto Gilardino shook off his marker in the box, but the Parma striker fired the wrong side of the post and into the side-netting.

Slovenia went closer to breaking the deadlock in the 26th



Italy's Mauro Esposito (ground) competes for the ball with Slovenia's Jalen Pokorn (left) and Goran Sukalo.

minute when Italy defender Gianluca Zambrotta headed against his own crossbar as he tried to clear an inswinging corner.

Italy paid the price for not putting their chances away when Cesar struck six minutes after coming on as a substitute for Mitrovic.

Nastja Ceh floated a free-kick towards the back post from the right flank and the unmarked defender's head connected with the ball before Gianluigi Buffon's fist and found the corner of the net.

Steffen Iversen cleared a shot off the goal-line before scoring from the penalty spot as Norway defeated Scotland 1-0 at Hampden Park while Belarus brushed aside Moldova 4-0.

Group 5

Scotland	0	Norway	1
Belarus	4	Moldova	0
Slovenia	1	Italy	0

Next Round (October 13)

Moldova vs Scotland
Italy vs Belarus
Norway vs Slovenia

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Slovenia	3	2	1	0	4	0	7
Italy	3	2	0	1	3	2	6
Belarus	2	1	1	0	5	1	4
Norway	3	1	1	1	3	3	4
Scotland	2	0	1	1	0	1	1
Moldova	3	0	0	3	0	8	0

BECKHAM SCORES BUT HURT IN WIN

David Beckham scored a spectacular goal to lead England to a 2-0 victory over Wales but also suffered a broken rib and wound up with a suspension.

Beckham collided with Wales defender Ben Thatcher shortly after scoring in the 76th minute. X-rays revealed a hairline fracture of the ribs.

But England's captain could not have played anyway in the next qualifier against Azerbaijan after picking up his second yellow card in the qualifying round.

Beckham scored on a curling, 25-yard shot to give England a 2-0 lead following Frank Lampard's fourth minute opener.

Ten-man Poland survived a late onslaught to secure a 3-1 victory over Austria.

The defeat knocked the Austrians off the top of the group and down into third behind England and the Poles.

The visitors had Arkadiusz Radomski sent off two minutes from time but with Austria storming towards Poland's goal in the dying moments, a long through

ball found Tomasz Frankowski alone in front of Alex Manninger's goal and his second attempt found the net.

Poland took the lead through Radoslaw Kaluzny after 10 minutes after Manninger could only parry a free kick from Maciej Zurawski. The Austrians equalised thanks to Markus Schopp on the half hour.

Dudek saved Poland several times in the second half then Jacek Krzynowek scored from a 79th minute free kick from just outside the box before Frankowski's late strike.

Group Six

England	2	Wales	0
Azerbaijan	0	Northern Ireland	0
Austria	1	Poland	3

Next Round (October 13)

Azerbaijan vs England
Wales vs Poland
Nthn Ireland vs Austria

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
England	3	2	1	0	6	3	7
Poland	3	2	0	1	7	3	6
Austria	3	1	1	1	5	5	4
Wales	3	0	2	1	3	5	2
Azerbaijan	3	0	2	1	1	3	2
Northern Ireland	3	0	2	1	2	5	2



Austria's Martin Stranzl (centre) reaches for the ball against the Poles during last week's qualifiers.

SPAIN ROLL AGAINST NINE MEN BELGIUM

Spain gained the first win of their World Cup qualifying campaign after quick-fire goals from strikers Albert Luque and Raul gave them a 2-0 victory at home to nine-man Belgium.

Belgium were reduced to 10 men after just 28 minutes when defender Eric Deflandre was sent off but Spain were unable to take advantage until Luque rifled home after a neat assist from Jose Antonio Reyes on the hour.

Three minutes later skipper Raul made it 2-0 when he grabbed his 40th goal in 79 appearances



Spain's Jose Antonio Reyes (top) and Belgium's Bart Goor fight for the ball.

with a well-taken header and there was no way back for the Belgians after midfielder Bart Goor was dismissed for spitting at Xavi 24 minutes from time.

The win puts Spain joint top of Group Seven alongside Serbia & Montenegro and Lithuania,

with all three sides having earned four points from their first two matches.

Bosnia were held to a 0-0 draw by Serbia and Montenegro in a qualifier played in a highly-charged atmosphere.

Bosnia, missing a string of first-choice players, enjoyed more possession and had several chances with shots from Elvir Baljic, Elvir Bolic and Ivica Grljic saved by Dragoslav Jevric.

But they eventually ran out of steam and were lucky to earn a point when the unmarked Zvonimir Vukic headed straight at Bosnia keeper Almir Tolja from five metres in the 82nd minute.

Group Seven

Bosnia-Herzegovina	0	Serbia-Montenegro	0
Spain	2	Belgium	0

Next Round (October 13)

Lithuania vs Spain
Serbia-Montenegro vs San Marino

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Lithuania	2	1	1	0	5	1	4
Serbia and Montenegro	2	1	1	0	3	0	4
Spain	2	1	1	0	3	1	4
Bosnia-Herzegovina	2	0	2	0	1	1	2
Belgium	2	0	1	1	1	3	1
San Marino	2	0	0	2	0	7	0

HUNGRY SWEDES CRUISE OVER HUNGARY

Sweden outclassed a negative Hungary side 3-0 with goals from Fredrik Ljungberg, Henrik Larsson and Anders Svensson.

Sweden, who lost to Croatia in their last match, opened the scoring in the 26th minute as Marcus Allback set up Freddy Ljungberg, his precise header beating goalkeeper Gabor Kiraly.

Five minutes into the second Henrik Larsson doubled the advantage by tapping in after having his first shot blocked by Kiraly.

A powerful long-range shot by

Anders Svensson in the 67th minute wrapped up a 3-0 victory for the impressive home side.

Bulgaria scored twice in the last 12 minutes to salvage a 2-2 draw with Croatia as they recovered from Darijo Srna's double.

Bulgaria persevered in attack it paid off in the 78th minute when a defence-splitting pass gave Martin Petrov the chance to burst into the area and beat goalkeeper Tomislav Butina.

Petrov set up the equaliser four minutes from time with a perfect cross from the right that found the

dangerous Dimitar Berbatov unmarked in the area and he scored with ease.

Malta regained their pride after their embarrassing 7-0 home defeat to Sweden five weeks ago with a 0-0 draw against Iceland which gave both teams their first point in Group Eight.

Malta created the better chances against a disappointing Iceland side. Even Chelsea forward Eidur Gudjohnsen, the Icelandic skipper was well controlled by the Malta defence and failed to shine.

Group Eight

Malta	0	Iceland	0
Sweden	3	Hungary	0
Croatia	2	Bulgaria	2

Next Round (October 13)

Iceland vs Sweden
Bulgaria vs Malta

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Croatia	3	2	1	0	6	2	7
Sweden	3	2	0	1	10	1	6
Bulgaria	2	1	1	0	5	3	4
Hungary	3	1	0	2	3	8	3
Iceland	3	0	1	2	3	6	1
Malta	2	0	1	1	0	7	1



Balazs Molnar of Hungary (right) vies with Sweden's Alexander Oestlund (left) with Anders Svensson (centre) watching from behind.



"Noddy" signs off in style

By Paul Goodwin

The sign on the eastern hill of WIN Stadium just about said it all – "Farewell Noddy – Thanks for the memories 1992-2004."

Twenty-seven trophies in 13 seasons of work with Port Kembla, his twenty-eighth piece of silverware via an emphatic 4-0 win over Picton Rangers in his final game.

"I appreciate everybody at this club," said Alston in collecting his Grand Final coaches medallion. "I might be leaving the club but my heart stays behind."

With a tear in his eye 'Noddy' said his goodbyes in front of a packed grandstand at WIN Stadium but what is Port Kembla's loss is definitely the Wollongong Wolves gain as Alston will step onto the training track this Tuesday swathed in a different track suit and armed with a new agenda to again put Wollongong on the football map.

"The N.S.W. Premier League is the number one league in the country at present so for me to take the step up to coach there was a natural progression."

Port Kembla has been a wonderful club and I have enjoyed every minute with them and felt we achieved a lot. But there comes a time when you have to move on and I feel that I have left the club at the

right time and in the right shape for them to continue moving forward."

With Alston returning to the Wolves the rumours have already started linking the club with up to seven of his Grand Final winning squad.

Mineo Bonetig, Mark Troth, Dominic Longo, Tynan Diaz, Michael Clare, Shane Williams and Chad Bishop have all been pencilled in as possible recruits and after they turned on a three goals to nil first half it is not hard to see why.

Longo was absolutely sensational in galvanising the defence alongside Mark Troth, Tynan Diaz used his speed to exploit the holes in the feeble Picton defence while Chad Bishop showed glimpses of his deft touch in a commanding performance down the left hand side.

But overshadowing his team mates with a brilliant cameo was skipper Mineo Bonetig who at 34-years of age is still a class act. His man-of-the-match performance was faultless as he set up two goals and scored another himself to again etch his name in footballing folklore.

For Picton, David Reid showed he is still a quality act playing in the centre of the park for the Rangers. His combination with ex-Sutherland midfielder Wayne Gibson was the only real spark for a side



Port Kembla players celebrating their Finals win over the Picton Rangers



Collin Luff showed his creative experience in the Port Kembla squad

that struggled to maintain any team work in defence.

Up front Colin Luff looked decidedly uncomfortable with his groin injury and toiled fruitlessly while his partner Vuko Tomasevic was also struggling with the move to push him further up the park.

One must wonder why a brilliant left sided midfielder like Tomasevic was wasted in the strikers role where trying to survive against physical defenders was an effort in itself.

The Wolves management team would have had their eye on the crowd figure of 5,350 which again showed that soccer is far from dead on the South Coast.

Galvanising support for the club with a coach of the calibre of Alston should prove the easy part, putting it together off the park with a limited preparation is going to be the challenge.

With their first match less than seven days away the focus will be on getting the basics of the side together and using the matches as a get-fit quick campaign.

"It's not going to be an ideal preparation but that is the hand we have been dealt and we'll do our best to get ready."



Port Kembla coach Adrian Alston signed off in style with a Grand-Final win against Picton



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ILLAWARRA GRAND FINAL MATCH REPORT

Port Kembla cruise in Finals romp

PORT KEMBLA 4
PICTON RANGERS 0

By Paul Goodwin

WIN Stadium, soon to be the home of NSW Premier League outfit Wollongong City, resounded to the calls of supporters from teams from Port Kembla and Picton on Sunday in a big day for Macarthur Association football.

It was Picton's first ever Grand Final in the Illawarra Premier League during whose season they had secured fourth spot, some help in advancing to this major showpiece coming thanks to only needing two more games to reach the pinnacle of South Coast soccer.

Coming from Macarthur, where many of their junior sides play, yet competing in the IPL, Picton Rangers, decked out in their familiar maroon shirts and white shorts were keen to make an impression against a Port Kembla side which had won the previous two Grand Finals and began as strong favourites for this one too.

Players from both sides had big match experience and many had played on this ground many times. None more so than Vuko Tomasevic, the Picton midfielder who played most of the last summer with Northern Spirit and had seen the ground in his NSL days.

There was to be no fairy tale end to the season for high achievers, Picton, however, in this year's Grand Final.

Instead, there was a sentimental third successive and final win for Port Kembla coach, Adrian 'Noddy' Alston as he led his team for the last time before linking up with new NSW Premier League side Wollongong City in the summer.

He will be bringing seven of his 'Port' men with him here at WIN Stadium though the ground will not be available for the first two home matches due to pitch repairs and the Wolves will entertain their fans at Cringila instead.

Port began like the well-oiled machine they clearly are and before long they established their absolute superiority over Picton, a side they respected highly, yet still showing a clear ability to have their opponents' measure in every department.

While Port Kembla beat Picton Rangers 4-0 and scored some class goals, dominating effortlessly once within sight of goal, it was also evident that the winners' backline was so well-drilled that men like Colin Luff and David Reid could not get near them.

Port Kembla's great strength was their mobility, their ability to move swiftly out of defence and go on the counter attack, chiefly with long passes through the middle that caught the Picton defence flat-footed.

Time and again, right from the opening whistle from referee, Srebre Delovski, Port carved apart the Picton defence.

Two minutes had elapsed when the

superbly gifted 17 year old wide man, Tynan Diaz, burst into the box down the left and forced a great one-handed save from Picton keeper Polek Rybcznski. Diaz was to go on and show sparkle throughout and seemed to be involved in most of the attacking play, along with lone striker Shane McGirr.

Lone striker he might have been but he lacked nothing in support as attacking players just behind him like Diaz, Matt Callahan, Chad Bishop and evergreen captain, Mineo Bonetig, came forward in waves to threaten the Rangers' goal.

A mix up in the eighth minute almost saw Picton fall behind for the first time, after a poor clearance by their keeper was picked up, out wide and whipped back into the box.

Eventually, after Diaz had beaten Stuart Lowrie to the ball, the keeper had to make a recovering save and a defender had to clear off the line. But there was to be no relief for Picton who found themselves under siege for most of the first half and goals began to flow at regular intervals.

In the 13th minute some brilliant lead-up work involving Diaz and McGirr led to the ball being threaded in behind a static Picton defence. Diaz had a go at it and passed to Bonetig who was able to squeeze between two defenders and the keeper and slip the ball home for a 1-0 lead.

Two minutes later the very lively McGirr smashed the ball against the left hand upright and when the ball broke free Bonetig had the chance to slide the ball past the keeper but hit the rebounded ball wide.

Apart from a looping header from Vuko Tomasevic which went just wide in the 16th Picton fans had little to cheer about and the 4-0 scoreline hardly flattered Port.

They got their second goal in the 19th after Graham Goodfellow had surrendered possession on half way. The speedy Port players caught the Picton men napping again, with Diaz again the man to do the damage as he set McGirr free once more to go on and beat the keeper, after another final pass from Bonetig.

Picton, now two goals down, almost dragged one back in a frenetic few minutes and after Russell Andrews had hit a snap shot well from inside the box it needed a goal line clearance by Mark Troth to preserve Port's two goal cushion.

The well-organised Port defence was able to deal with anything Picton could muster and their discipline was tremendous.

This meant that they could attack with confidence knowing the defence would be able to tidy things up if Picton made any ventures forward.

In the 22nd Shane Williams, another attacking player to shine for Port Kembla, was well placed to pick up a weak clearance after a Diaz corner from the right, Picton, once more, being called upon to clear off the line after the keeper had pushed the original shot away.



Port Kembla skipper Mineo Bonetig (right) was inspirational in his side's Final's victory over Picton

Callahan and Diaz both went close again for Port, the former lifting a shot just over the bar from a tight angle on the left. But soon enough the third goal arrived, two minutes before the break Diaz tidying up yet another move of quality close in.

Few balls were played in from wide positions and certainly crosses were largely absent as Port Kembla cut a swathe through the central midfield and defence to prise open their opponents.

The fourth and best goal of the game came in the 53rd minute on yet another fast break, this time down the right.

McGirr skipped past his marker and mad for the byline where he delivered a fast low cross which was converged on at the near post by Callahan whose deft finish to steer the ball between keeper and post was all class.

McGirr went on his own again in the 65th, this time hitting a powerful snap-shot that the keeper was forced to punch away.

Good covering by Reid saw yet another Port shot cleared off the line after the keeper had been forced off his line.

McGirr had a great chance to make it 5-0 in the 86th minute but after a cross from the left by substitute, Justin Roberts, that the lively McGirr really only had to tap in Picton saw to it that they came away with the ball out of defence.

This was Port Kembla's day and it was just as surely Alston's.

A man of few words on this occasion Alston merely echoed those spoken by his captain, Bonetig, who complimented Picton on being a very good side.

"We knew they were a good side and we have known that all season," said the big coach.

"I fully expected to be playing them today and while they were outplayed here they have been one of the best teams in the league this season."

Alston can now reflect on the new challenges he faces as Wollongong coach.

There will be no break for him and possibly none for his new recruits either. They will all be engaged in the Johnny Warren Cup this coming weekend and will want to put out a strong side.



Picton's Vuko Tomasevic (left) tried his best in bringing the Rangers back into the match

PORT KEMBLA: Matthew Nash, Kane Maccabe, Mark Troth, Robert Cazzoli, Dominic Longo, Tynan Diaz, Shane McGirr, Mineo Bonetig (C) (Justin Roberts 83), Shane Williams, Chad Bishop, Matt Callahan
Subs not used: RGK David Zulic, Evan Nicholson, Andrew Ferri, Joel Costello
Coach: Adrian Alston

PICTON RANGERS: Polek Rybcznski, Shane Mercer (Greg King 67), Gary Newell, Stuart Lowrie (C), Vuko Tomasevic, Russell Andrews, Graham Goodfellow, David Reid

Colin Luff, Nathan Tring, Wayne Gibson (Damen Carney 82)
Subs not used: RGK David Hayes, Miles Downie
Coach: Ray Carney

Referee: Srebre Delovski
Assistant Referees: Stephan Jaros and Bobby Mazovski

Fourth Official: David Owen
Yellow Cards: Port Kembla: Picton
Rangers: David Reid 47, Vuko Tomasevic 64



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SILVER MEDAL PREVIEW

Awards up for grabs in WSL

It's the Winter Super Leagues night of nights, the one evening of the year when the spotlight will shine brightest on the cream of the leagues playing talent to crown the Soccer N.S.W. Silver Medallist for 2004.

The glittering affair will take place on Friday night at Dockside in Darling Harbour with players swapping their playing strips for a bow tie and tails and a chance to relive the great moments of arguably the most competitive winter season ever staged.

Starting the overwhelming favourites for the Silver Medal are two of the most credentialed players in the league – Brent Fisher from Manly-Warringah Dolphins and Scott Baillie from Stanmore Hawks. Coming off an injury riddled season at Northern Spirit, Fisher put his best foot forward for the Dolphins scoring 19 goals and leading his side to a spot in the Grand Final. But the New Zealand international is expected to face some solid competition from the Hawks Scott Baillie who became the driving force behind the Hawks championship run.

On the second line of betting are a couple of new faces and a couple of old heads. Eddie Adam, a relative unknown until

Hurstville ZSC coach John Gagro plucked him out of the old First Division earned revues in putting away 14 goals for Hurstville this year while Phil Zabaks performed heroics between the sticks for the Rams in their sixth placed finished.

Now plying his trade in the United States college system Zabaks is one graduate from the Winter Super League destined for higher honours. In the veteran class are Eric Williams and his former team mates Martin Bourke.

Despite both being in the twilight of their careers both Williams and Bourke have been the lifeblood of their respective teams, consistent performers in teams which relied on their experience as a way forward. Bourke of course combined with team mate Ante Juric, who joined Fraser Park midway through the season and showed enough down the stretch to say he should poll well.

In the darkhorse category are three players who have consistently served their clubs for many seasons. Rob Smithies from Sydney University may not have recaptured his goalscoring exploits of a couple of seasons ago but 13 goals is still quite a handy effort and he is sure to attract some votes. Daniel Schwarzer, a name



Stanmore's Grand-Final winning coach Sotos Mavros (right) is in the running of claiming this year's Winter Super League coach of the year with rival Manly manager Phil Moss also a chance



Scott Baillie's consistent performances for Stanmore this Winter season has given him a chance of winning some personal silverware

synonymous with the current day Socceroos racked up seven clean sheets in 26 matches in a team that failed to make the finals and could surprise while the old warrior Sam Panagakis is the obvious choice at the Minotaurs.

Of the others Hurstville's Richard Plesa and Michael Cunico should figure prominently as will Tim Gledhill, himself a Silver Medallist back in season 2002. Jim Nikas, who won the Gold Medal in 1998 and 2000 is not to be written off while MSC Liverpool goalkeeper Steve Minovski performed heroics in the number one shirt which should help his chances.

Of the other awards – the coach of the year award should almost be as hotly contested as the Silver Medal with a number of well credentialed personnel putting their name forward.

While premiership winning coach Phil Moss and championship winning boss Sotiri Mavros are the favourites, the performances of Sydney University and Macarthur Rams are expected to bring Stewart Porter and Washington Gonzalez well into contention.

Then there is last season's coach-of-the-year Ian Gillan from Fraser Park and Hugh McCrory who breathed some much needed life into the Fairfield Bulls cause this season.

Goalkeeper of the year is another tough one with some much depth in the ranks. James Meyer at Sydney University and



Manly Warringah's hot sharp-shooter Brent Fisher is a candidate for Winter Super League player of the year

Daniel Schwarzer at Hajduk Wanderers and veteran Claudio Fernandez' consistent performers this award could go to any of the four.



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JOHNNY WARREN CUP PREVIEW

Season starts here

LAMBERT PARK

Sunday 17th October 2004
Group D

*Sydney Crescent Star v
Manly Warringah Dolphins 4.00PM

*A.P.I.A. Leichhardt Tigers v
Wollongong Wolves 6.00PM

A.P.I.A.-Leichhardt will get a chance to exorcise a few demons when they take to Lambert Park to meet Wollongong City in the main game of Pool D.

Having finished a highly disappointing ninth last season there is much expected of the Tigers who have completely retooled in a number of key areas.

"I am very happy with the players we have signed and I am looking forward to playing in what looks like the most competitive football season in recent memory," said A.P.I.A. coach Les De Celis. All eyes will be on new signings Clint Bolton, Jeromy Harris and Sam La Rocca as the three most likely to lift the profile of the club. Throw-in Daniel McCann and Peter Peralta and this team shapes up as one capable of pushing for the top eight.

"The one thing we have been conscious of in recruiting players has been their ages," continued De Celis.

"We carried a few older guys last year but this season we have a number of quality players but at a younger age and I think that may count for a lot as the season progresses."

A.P.I.A. will start overwhelming favourites against Wollongong who have only been in action as a unit this past week. Owing to the club commitments of coach Adrian Alston, the Wolves have been in hiatus and will only hit the training paddock this week. "We are going to be well under done so this will be a huge learning curve for us," said Alston.

"We are a new team on a very limited preparation so the team in the first few weeks will rely on the younger guys so we can rest some guys whose winter commitments only finished last week."

In the early game Phil Moss' Manly-Warringah Dolphins will take on surprise packets Sydney Crescent Star. Like Wollongong, Manly will be using the cup competition as a 'get-fit' exercise having completed their club commitments only two weeks ago when defeated 1-2 by Stanmore Hawks in the season decider.

"Our first run as a team will be five days before kick-off so you won't be seeing the best from Manly until the first round of the season proper," said Moss.

"Some of the guys haven't had a break for 12-months so we decided to rest up for two weeks and take it from there." Manly are expected to be without key veterans Damian Rosenthal, Phil Moss, Steve Berry and Bobby Catlin for round one.

On form A.P.I.A. should be too strong for the Wolves with Sydney Crescent Star to knock over the underdone Dolphins.

EDENSOR PARK

Sunday 17th October 2004
Group C

*Central Coast v
Parramatta Eagles 3.00PM

*Sydney United v
Blacktown City Demons 5.00PM

Central Coast boss Grant Lee returns to the site of many of his greatest victories as a coach as he leads the new look Coasties against Parramatta Eagles.

Having coached Sydney United to a mid take finish last National league season, Lee unexpectedly found himself on the outer at Edensor Park but was snapped up by the Coasties after United elected to go with a new face in Zlatko Arambasic.

"It was just my luck to be drawn in the same pool as United, but that's football and I just want to get on with the job of building the Coasties up to being a competitive side," said Lee.

Tipped by pundits to be the favourites for relegation, both the Coasties and Eagles see their success as lying with a bunch of talented youngsters galvanised with a handful of experienced veterans. Matt Bingley and Mark Reveley are two such players who should see some match time in the early game.

The same cannot be said for either Sydney United or Blacktown who are considered two of the favourites for premier-ship glory. United under new coach Zlatko Arambasic will definitely go into this match as favourites after a solid showing against A.P.I.A. Leichhardt last weekend.

"Our 1-0 win over A.P.I.A. last Sunday started us off nicely and I was very happy with the boys in the last half hour of the game," said Arambasic.

"We showed some good teamwork and I'll be looking to the Johnny Warren Cup series to help solidify our side and build our fitness levels for the season."

Impressing United fans has been their back line led by giant defender Joe Vrkic. A.P.I.A. coach Les De Celis left Edensor Park impressed with their skill and precision in keeping the Tigers chances to a minimum.

With very little form to go on fans can expect a forward showing from both the Central Coast and United and they should go close to starting the season off on the right note.

MARCONI STADIUM

Saturday 16th October 2004
Group B

*Penrith Nepean United v
Belconnen Blue Devils 5.00PM

*Marconi Stallions v
Bonnyrigg White Eagles 7.00PM

Marconi takes on Bonnyrigg in an all-Fairfield derby as the new summer season kicks off on Saturday night at Marconi Stadium with this pre season competition.

The hosts are engaged in the main game at 7 pm while before that, two sides from a little further afield, Penrith and Belconnen, face up in the 5 pm match.

The Canberra visitors are very much an unknown quantity this summer, having won the Premiership only a matter of months ago.

Belconnen has lost Ilija Prenzowski to the Central Coast and some of their older players are perhaps not as sharp as they once were.

The Blue Devils are sure to be using this tournament to measure up some of the better ACT based players keen to make the transition to what is the major competition in Australia right now.

Former Canberra Deakin National Youth League star Paul Ivanic and Robbie Cattanch, from the ACT Academy of Sport, will wear the Blue Devils' colours during the 2004-05 NSW Premier League campaign and have already been added to the squad for the Johnny Warren Cup.

We'll see if Penrith-Nepean United look any different under their new Name, when they provide the opposition for Belconnen.

The Tony Rasmussen-coached team will be missing a few big names from last season, but they will still make the other sides work hard.

This out of town curtain raiser is an excellent start to the new campaign for spectators, who will be eager once more to settle back in their seats and enjoy an early taste of what is to come.

Having lost Allan Wawi, Jason Connolly and Daniel McCann, so far, Penrith could well blood their main recruits in Matt Osman and keeper Ivan Necevski, the latter back after three years at other clubs.

The securing of another term for Peter

Bennett is however, a positive sign for the Cook Park club.

Fans will be looking at this game to weigh up whether the current Premiers can shape up quickly in defence of their title, but Penrith are sure to give them a good workout.

In the late fixture, former NSL big guns Marconi are at last performing in front of their fans in an official game after an uncertain winter.

Jean-Paul de Marigny has managed to assemble a top quality side and one capable of at least winning this group, if not the Premier League at the first attempt.

Bonnyrigg has had a troubled time of it lately and it will be a test of returning coach John Turner's powers to get the White Eagles firing against the Stallions on their own turf.

These pre season games are always hard to forecast, but if anyone is likely to upset Marconi in this group it will be Bonnyrigg, last year's winners.

The first outing for these South West Sydney clubs is full of intrigue for both sets of supporters. We know they will set out to entertain as well as trying out as many ideas as they can. Marconi Stadium is sure to show us some good soccer in this First Round double-header.

Under de Marigny, the coach who led them well in their last National League campaign, the Stallions appear one of the stronger sides to come back to the NSW League ranks. Marconi may add another dimension with the likely signing of former Wollongong Wolves front man, Chimaobi Nwagazi.

This young man is well known to Turner, and with Nick Carle also back in the fold, prospects out at Bossley Park look bright.

ST GEORGE STADIUM

Sunday 17th October 2004
Group A

*St George Saints v
Rockdale Suns 4.00PM

*Sydney Olympic v
Bankstown City Lions 6.00PM

St George have had a busy off season saying farewell to some high profile players and welcoming a few new stars to help them in the hunt for the title, which eluded them by the narrowest of margins last time around.

Here they have the juicy derby with Rockdale City Suns to contend with, and no doubt coach Manny Spanoudakis will parade many of his new men on this occa-

sion. So too should his adversary here, Ivan Petkovic, who has ventured into the transfer market as much as anyone else and will be looking for a quick return on the club's investment.

At the start of last season, Rockdale were one of the favourites for the inaugural Johnny Warren Cup, when just four of the 16 clubs taking part this time were involved.

Unveiling their signings in this cat-and-mouse time of the year may not represent total exposure, but we do have to see some of the big new names, surely?

We know that Scott Baillie will give the side a lot of 'oomph' and we would expect his leadership to rub off on the others. After a rugged winter with Stanmore, Baillie may be looking for a rest during this tournament, so we could have a while to wait before we see Scott in action again.

As for the Saints, ace defenders like Nick Orlic and Brendan Renaud will form the nucleus of the side. The speedy Tanju Balabanel is bound to put his best foot forward again, inspired by playing at the higher level once more.

Just as is the case at Marconi Stadium, the public may not see all of the new stars from either club over the next few weeks; but it is going to be fun finding out.

St George got the Johnny Warren Cup out there last term, when they launched this pre-season tournament. They will be keen to do better this time, by getting a trophy in the cabinet to give their supporters an early thrill.

Of the four clubs on show at Barton Park, Sydney Olympic would surely be the big guns and favourites to take the Cup home.

They are facing Bankstown City though, the Premier League Grand Final winners, a tough test indeed, especially as the Lions appear to have strengthened their squad more impressively than any other club this spring.

In bringing in Buddy Farah, for instance, the Championship-winning coach Andy Papoulias has to allow for a player who may not be ready to play until the first game of the season proper. There would be doubts, too, about the readiness of Matt Borg, after the rigours of a tough Malaysian League campaign.

Borg, though, is back and ready to resume.

All the same, the Lions do look competitive and they should be able to match strides with the big guns in this pre season competition.

The return of the talismanic Saso Petrovski, after his world travels, is sure to pack out the stadiums during these early weeks and we can see the Lions finishing top of this particular heap.



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YOUTH LEAGUE REVIEW (PART ONE)

STELLAR SEASON FOR STALLIONS

By Barry Davis

Yet another fantastic season was enjoyed at the top level of junior soccer.

There really is nothing to match the exquisite skill and application shown in every game at this level of play.

Coaches and players need to be at their very best throughout each match or they know that they will pay the price no matter where they are sitting on the competition table.

There is no such thing as an "easy" game and those who think they can relax, receive a very abrupt wake-up call.

The competition for places in teams in the PYL is very high and those who cannot maintain the high standards required soon find themselves watching from the bench. The intensity of the battles for places in the top five of the respective grades has to be seen to be believed.

Then there is fierce rivalry for the spots at the top of the Club Championship. All these factors combine to make this the best junior competition in Australia.

1. Marconi Stallions 277 points (Average 10.65 points/round)

The Stallions claimed the Club Championship for the first time in many seasons and they are to be congratulated for their outstanding achievement.

Director of Youth Coaching Tom McCulloch and his staff have produced teams of the highest order, who have been at the top of their game for the duration of the season.

Not only did they win the title by 25 points, but they also won three Premierships and had all five teams in the finals series of their respective competitions. Three of those, the 15s, 16s, and 18s, went on to win their Grand Final.

The 13s finished third and bowed out in the Preliminary Final. The 14s claimed the Premiership, but lost both their finals fixtures.

2. Blacktown City Demons 252 points (Average 9.69 points/round)

Once again, the Demons performed exceptionally well at this level. They completed their commitments in second place to continue an amazing run. Blacktown has won the Club Championship four times and been runners-up twice in the last six seasons. Director of Coaching Ken Schembri and his coaching staff would be reasonably pleased with that outcome. Like the Stallions, Blacktown had all their teams in the finals series. The 13s were the only one of their teams to win a Premiership and together with the 14s emerged victorious from Grand Final day. The 15s dipped out in the Minor Semi Final, the 16s fell at their first Finals hurdle and the 18s were vanquished in the Grand Final.

3. Parramatta Eagles 251 points (Average 9.65 points/round)

Third place was very respectable indeed for the Eagles who take considerable pride from hosting the Manchester United Academy. They were after all, only one point behind the Demons following a points deduction for an irregularity. That involved the 13s who had their tally reduced by seven points and they missed a place in the finals by three points.

The 14s, 15s and 16s all suffered the heartbreak of grand Final losses. The 16s lost in a penalty shootout after winning the league by an astounding 15 points. The 18s had to settle for seventh after showing early promise.

4. Gladesville Spirit 209 points (Average 8.04 points/round)

Gladesville actually began their season one week later than everyone else due to a legal wrangle that almost saw them drop out of YL soccer.

Thankfully, a rapid reorganisation and some co-operation from Soccer NSW allowed them to compete this year. It is a tribute to the organisational ability of Ross Iredale and his committee and to the hard practical work from DOC Richard Paddle

and his staff that they not only survived but placed so well on the table.

The 15s and 18s each finished third and reached the Preliminary Final. The 14s were eliminated at the Minor Semi Final stage, while the 13s and 16s missed out on Finals action.

5. Sydney Olympic 201 points (Average 7.73 points/round)

After being the runners-up in last season's competition, Olympic must have been more than a little perplexed at their showing this time around. Costing them dearly were the 13s who finished in 12th place and the 14s and 18s, both of which had to settle for sixth. Their 15s were beaten in the Elimination Semi Final and the 16s made it to the Preliminary Final.

6. Wollongong Wolves 200 points (Average 7.69 points/round)

Considering the huge talent pool in the Illawarra, the Wolves will be scratching their heads about their showing this season. After winning the last two Grand Finals, the 18s would have had high hopes of repeating the dose. They could not get past the Elimination Semi Final, which was also the end of the road for the 14s. The 13s and 16s each ended up seventh and the 15s finished down in 11th spot.

7. Sydney United 185 points (Average 7.12 points/round)

Over the years, United have produced a great many top quality players and there is every reason to believe that they will continue to do so. Unfortunately, they would have been just a little disappointed with the outcome of this season. Without doubt, the 13s were their best performed team as they were the competition runners-up and beaten Grand Finalist. All its other sides missed the finals. The 16s were sixth, the 15s seventh, the 18s tenth and the 14s languished in 13th place.

8. Bankstown City Cubs 168 points (Average 6.46 points/round)

A mid-table position was the best the

Cubs could do this time and they will already plotting an improved showing for next season. Pick of the bunch were the 16s, which finished second and reached the Minor Semi Final, while the 13s came fourth and dropped out at the Elimination Semi Final stage. The 15s were eighth, the 14s ninth and the 18s last.

9. Newcastle United 153 points (Average 5.88 points/round)

Given the huge talent resources that should have been available to them, the Novocastrians would have been more than a little disappointed at their final placing for this year. Sadly, they have not been included in the competition for next season. Their best performed team was the sixth-placed 15s. The 16s ended up ninth, the 13s and 14s both finished tenth and the 18s slumped to 13th after appearing in last season's Grand Final.

10. Sutherland Shire Sharks 150 points (Average 5.76 points/round)

The once powerful Sharks have been going through lean times in recent years and that is somewhat bewildering considering the huge player base to be found in The Shire.

If they can manage to tap into that talent pool, they are sure to return to their days of glory. Best performed for the club were the 18s who grabbed fifth, before going down in the Minor Semi Final. The 14s were next best on seventh, the 16s came eighth and the 13s and 15s each occupied 13th.

11. A.P.L.A. Leichhardt Tigers 140 points (Average 5.38 points/round)

The Tigers are still struggling to compete with the clubs to their west. Existing in the inner city area does not attract the best of players and so they need to make the best of what they have.

Their 13s placed eighth and the 14s and 16s came 11th and the 15s and 18s both had to settle for 12th.

12. Hajduk Wanderers Utd 137 points (Average 5.27 points/round)

The formation of the new club and the inherent problems with that has meant that the Wanderers have needed to be content with merely hanging in there for this season. They have already begun to plan for a better season next year. Their 13s were their best performed team this time, finishing fifth and winning the Elimination Semi Final before losing the Minor Semi Final 0-1. Eighth place was claimed by the 14s and the 18s, the 16s recorded a 13th place finish and the 15s were to be found at the foot of the table.

13. Macarthur Rams 116 points (Average 4.46 points/round)

Dwelling in the relegation zone for the greater part of the season, the Rams will be doing plenty of soul searching in an attempt to find a better way to make the most of the vast talent to be found on their doorstep. They will need to take action immediately, because they have escaped the drop and have another chance to prove themselves at this level. It was quite a blow for them to find their 13s at the bottom of the table for the duration of the competition and their 14s were twelfth in the final analysis. Things improved a little from there on as their 15s were tenth, the 16s twelfth and the 18s ninth.

14. Central Coast United 103 points (Average 3.96 points/round)

The newly formed club had some difficulty in securing sufficient quality players from the local talent pool to ensure they could survive at the top level.

They are sure to be planning for improved success in Super Youth League next year. Their story for 2004 ended with the 15s in ninth place, the 13s and 18s in 11th spot and their 14s and 16s at the bottom of the ladder.

Youth League Review continues next week

Soccer NSW Champion of Champions - Round 4

Under 10 Boys:

Eastern Suburbs 0 Granville 5,
Gladesville Hornsby 0 Sthn.
Districts 3.

Under 12 Girls:

Canterbury 3 Manly
Warringah 4, Sthn. Districts 1
Nepean Association 3.

Under 15 Boys:

Macarthur 0 Ku-Ring-Gai
Association 5, Illawarra 3 Far
North Coast 1.

Under 17 Boys:

Canterbury 0 Granville 4,
Sthn. Districts 4 St George
Assoc 3.

Over 35 Male:

Ku-Ring-Gai Association 2
Manly Warringah 0, Sutherland
Association 1 St George Assoc 0.

Under 11 Boys:

Macarthur 0 Canterbury 4,
Sutherland Association 0 Sthn.
Districts 1.

Under 13 Boys:

Bankstown Assoc 0 Granville
2, Illawarra 0 Sthn. Districts 1.

Under 16 Boys:

Bankstown Assoc 3 Manly
Warringah 2, Sthn. Districts 2
Holiday Coast 0.

Under 18 Boys:

Bankstown Assoc 7
Gladesville Hornsby 6,
Sutherland Association 3
Nepean Association 0.

All Age Male:

Bankstown Assoc 1 Ku-Ring-
Gai Association 2, Gladesville
Hornsby 1 St George Assoc 2.

Under 12 Boys:

Eastern Suburbs 1 Canterbury
3, Illawarra 3 Sthn. Districts 1.

Under 14 Boys:

Griffith 0 Canterbury 1,
Illawarra 2 Far North Coast 0.

Under 16 Girls:

Bankstown Assoc 0
Shoalhaven 2, Sthn. Districts 0
Holiday Coast 6.

Under 21 Male:

Macarthur 1 Sutherland
Association 3, Sthn. Districts 0
Nepean Association 3.

All Age Women:

Sutherland Association 6
Canterbury 0, North West Sydney
Womens 3 Holiday Coast 4.



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WOMEN'S NATIONAL SOCCER LEAGUE

Gill burns Sapphires

Northern NSW Pride 1
NSW Sapphires 0
 Wanderers Oval, Broadmeadow

By Paul Goodwin

The new season kicked off, in glorious sunshine, at Broadmeadow's Wanderers Oval, the home of the Northern NSW Pride, who were taking on the Grand Final winners from last season, the NSW Sapphires.

Both sides were missing players, the Sapphires most severely depleted, due to call ups into the Matildas Under 19 squad assembling in Perth.

Sally Shipard, Kylie Ledbrook, Leah Blayney, and last season's league top scorer Catherine Cannuli were among ten players who were out of the side and in addition Michelle Carney has yet to recover from injury.

With those women missing the team took the field with some caution against a side they had beaten 9-0 in their previous encounter.

That game had also been the season opener and eventually the Pride wound up with the wooden spoon, a dubious honour they wanted to shrug off this term.

There was to be no repeat of that this time. Pride were missing players, too, but they did have the experience of Matildas skipper Cheryl Salisbury and vice-captain Joanne Peters to guide them here.

Salisbury and Peters were returning to the NNSW ranks after some time playing in the USA and gave the side a huge lift.

At the emerging stadium, a brisk walk from Broadmeadow station and a stone's throw from Energy Australia Stadium, Pride coach Mark Jones masterminded a great 1-0 win for his 'All-Blacks'.

Jones, the former Sydney United and Newcastle Breakers defender, won the strategic battle over his opposite number, Alen Stajcic, with a single goal courtesy of the Northern NSW team's aerial supremacy and their ability to defend in numbers against a Sapphires side that attacked relentlessly throughout the second half.

The Sapphires looked lethargic in the first period and Pride clearly dominated, creating the greater share of chances.

With a number of much taller players and not a little speed the Pride team had the Sydney visitors on the back foot for much of the opening 45 minutes.

Sapphires' keeper, Cassandra Kell was alert to any danger, for the most part, commanding her area well, but the rest of her side did not take the imitative to Pride, often enough, to pose a real threat.

Pride looked the more dangerous in attack, twice winning corners and then having two shots on target within the first 20 minutes.

By the 24th minute Danielle Brogan had got up well on the right and put over a cross that, in that in the end, sailed past the far post by only inches.

Katie Gill was causing the Sapphires some problems, out wide though, with

her incisive running.

In the 30th minute Gill laid on a nice pass for Matilda, Joanne Peters, who got into the box well on the right, but, faced with a tight angle, could only shoot wide of the left upright, much to the relief of Kell and the rest of the NSW defence.

Apart from an effort from Joanne Burgess that flew over the bar, aided by a deflection in the 37th, the visitors never really got warm before the break.

If a goal was to come it would be a hard earned one by either side, but the NSW team were devastated to concede a goal, eventually, from a set-play in the 43rd minute.

A free kick, won deep on the right by Pride, was cleverly lifted to the far post where the tall figure of Gill out-jumped the Sapphires' defence to guide a looping header past Kell and into the top right corner of the net.

If the Sapphires were upset then their coach, Stajcic, was doubly disappointed.

"We have worked on that at training, defending against free kicks and I was about to call out to the girls to remind them of our tactics; but I didn't and I regret that now", he explained.

"We knew they had a height advantage and we expected there to be only one goal in it today, too."

Stajcic felt responsible but he was also unhappy with his side's first half efforts, overall.

"We were not very good at all, but thankfully we got better in the second half. We had five players making their debuts today and the eleven players we were missing would have made a huge difference."

Stajcic may have been a little hard on himself and his team as they played some very nice football for the remainder of the game and with such an inexperienced side and allowing for the normal time new players need to adjust and gain some cohesion it was quite a solid performance.

The NSW side did play much better in the second half. They attacked purposefully and enjoyed, perhaps, 80 per cent of possession and ran at the tall Pride defence with vigour, meeting a wall of up to eight players constantly, which made

their task of clawing a goal back, far from easy.

Pushing skipper Taryn Rockall forward into an attacking midfield role, the out-of-town team took the game to Northern NSW and it was only the well-marshalled defence of the home team that kept them at bay.

Salisbury and her Pride players got it just right, soaking up total pressure and getting numbers behind the ball. There were few second half openings for the locals who seemed content and confident of holding onto their slender lead. And this they did to perfection.

Certainly there was no passage through, via crosses, as the far taller Pride players dealt with anything in the air, severely, then also did well to clear any attempts at getting the ball over, low, or taking shots from distance that the Sapphires tried.

Rockall almost caught out Pride keeper, Erin Herd, in the 81st, her swerving free kick appearing to be heading, deceptively, for the top right corner only for the custodian to see it late and tip the ball over the bar.

Pride's Megan Shepard did scare the visitors with a couple of dangerous looking free kicks from outside the area in the 49th minute and again later, with shots skimming the post and the bar, but for the most part it was the Sydney side that dominated after the break and surely were deserving, overall, of a point.

But the wily Jones had won the tactical battle, capitalising on a savagely-depleted Sapphires team on opening day.

Both sides now take on newcomers Western Australia's 'Western Waves' in the coming days.

Northern NSW face the travellers on Thursday at 4 pm, at the same well appointed Wanderers Stadium, while the Sapphires tackle the 'Waves' with a full-



NSW Sapphires skipper Taryn Rockall came close to scoring the equaliser

strength team, again, at Marconi Stadium on Sunday at 3 pm.

It is good for the players to be enjoying first class facilities this season, too.

There are few better, emerging stadiums than this Broadmeadow one, which has been transformed from a virtual 'paddock' in matter of a couple of years, by the Broadmeadow Magic club and their largely Macedonian community supporter base.

One concrete stand is completed with full covered seating and another, with planned club rooms and canteen, all fully under cover, will be ready by next winter.

These are testament to what passion and commitment can do at club level to enhance spectator comforts.

Certainly the Sapphires and Pride players enjoyed the lush pitch and excellent amenities at this Broadmeadow venue and the locals turned up, in numbers, to share in the Newcastle team's success.



Goal-mouth action from the match between the Pride and Sapphires

NORTHERN NSW PRIDE: Erin Herd, Melanie Cortis, Ashley Wilson, Meegan Shepard, Cheryl Salisbury (C), Emma Howes, Tanya Sneddon, Linds Jones, Joanne Peters, Beth Kerridge, Katie Gill
 Subs not used: Gemma O'Toole, Emma Stevenson, Leah Guiffre

N.S.W. SAPPHIRES: Cassandra Kell, Lisa Gilbert, Nelsha Klessattel, Joanne Burgess, Ayse Adalis (Renee Cartwright 59), Belinda Ristevski, Taryn Rockall (C), Olivia Kennedy, Katherine Cavanagh (Katie Hilder 53)

Referee: Deanne Young
Assistant Referees: Penny Nash and Kiraloe Gardiner

Fourth Official: Dave Pilgrim
Yellow Cards: NSW Sapphires: Nil
 Northern NSW: Linds Jones 78



Round 2 14-15 October 2004				Kick-Off	Venue
Date	Home Team	vs	Away Team		
Thurs 14-10-04	Northern NSW Pride	vs	Western Waves	4.00pm	Wanderers Oval
Fri 15-10-04	Canberra Eclipse	vs	Adelaide Sensation	7.00pm	McKellar Stadium
Round 3 17 October 2004				Kick-Off	Venue
Date	Home Team	vs	Away Team		
Sun 17-10-04	NSW Sapphires	vs	Western Waves	3:00pm	Marconi Stadium
Sun 17-10-04	Victoria Vision	vs	Adelaide Sensation	4.30pm	Springvale WE SC
Sun 17-10-04	Canberra Eclipse	vs	Northern NSW Pride	3.00pm	McKellar Stadium



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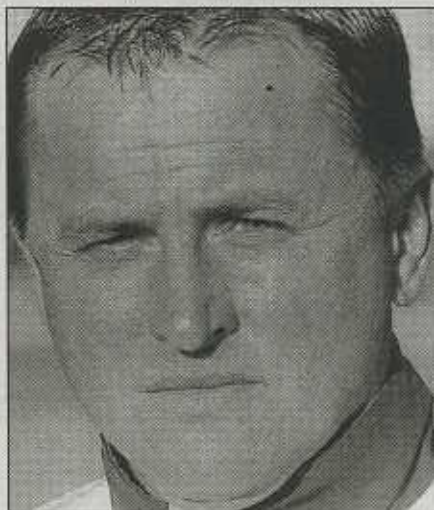
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NSWIS SQUAD 2003-2004

DANIEL LIMA	NSW U-16	
DAVID D'APUZZO	NSW U-16	
WILL THOM	NSW U-16	AUSTRALIA U-16
WADE OOSTENDORP	NSW U-16	AUSTRALIA U-16
BRENDAN MARONEY	NSW U-16	AUSTRALIA U-16
TAYFUN BUYUKKOPRU	NSW U-16	AUSTRALIA U-16
ANDREW MYLES	NSW U-16	AUSTRALIA U-16
BEN VIDAIC	NSW U-16	AUSTRALIA U-16
DANIEL MILLER	NSW U-16	AUSTRALIA U-16
NATHAN BURNS	NSW C'TRY U-16	
ANDREW REDMAYNE	NSW U-15	
NATHAN SMITH	NSW U-15	
DANIEL KING	NSW U-15	
PETER CVETANOVSKI	NSW U-15	
SIMON SHIN	NSW U-15	
JONATHAN DE GIORGIO	NSW U-15	
JASON NAIDOVSKI	NSW U-15	
DANIEL CORNETT	NSW U-15	
MARKO JESIC	NSW U-15	
NATHAN RALPH	NSW C'TRY U-15	

NSWIS DEVELOPMENT CONTINUES



NSWIS head coach Kelly Cross

Another scholarship year has drawn to a close for the NSWIS Men's Soccer Program. As usual, the QANTAS National Talent Identification Championships are the 'final exam' for the NSWIS boys.

All 20 scholarship holders were selected for their respective State Teams, but three were forced out owing to injury. Of the seventeen that competed, the eight U-15s won silver, and the nine U-16s won gold, both with the NSW Metro sides.

'The U-15s were a bit unlucky,' said NSWIS Head Coach, Kelly Cross, 'but Queensland' probably deserved to win on the day. However, the U-16s were the best team there by a mile, in my opinion, and I'm really glad they won. They should have won last year, but lost the final to a freak goal.' The starting eleven in the final this year comprised the nine NSWIS boys, plus two boys who were with NSWIS last year. They raced to a 3-0 half-time lead against Western Australia, and that remained the score at full-time.

NSWIS provided the team captains for the Metro teams, Nathan Smith in the U-15s and Will Thom in the U-16s. Daniel Miller was joint top goalscorer in the U-16 competition on 5 goals, with Ben Vidaic just behind on 4.

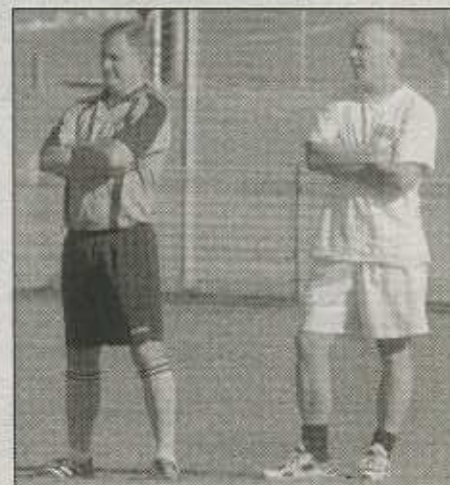
The NSW Metro U-16 team was coached by NSWIS Assistant Coach, Chris Minol.

The 2003-2004 NSWIS Squad was rated by Cross as one of the best he has worked with. Cross's involvement at this level dates back to 1993, so that is a solid endorsement. 'Maybe it's a reflection of the changes we've brought in these last two years, but this squad has played some of the most attractive football I've ever seen from boys their age.'

This was borne out by the results gained by NSWIS on their two most recent European tours. The squad has beaten the likes of Ajax, PSV, Borussia Dortmund and Malmö, and has shown top teams in Holland, Germany, Belgium and Sweden that Australian soccer is a force to be reckoned with. 'We've won 15 and lost only 4 these last two years in Europe, and every game has been tough. While we're there we record every game on our computer and analyse it. We've picked up a lot of things from our opponents, too, and tried to implement these in training.'

The NSWIS squad has had some illustrious visitors these last twelve months. Sir Geoff Hurst (the only man to score three goals in a World Cup Final), Scottish legend Gordon Strachan, as well as former Socceroos Robbie Slater, Alistair Edwards and Luke Casserley, have all come to see the NSWIS boys in action and pass on some of their vast knowledge and experience.

Arguably the highlight of the year, though, was the Australian U-16 team selection in March. National Youth Coach, Ange Postecoglou, picked 18 players with 7 coming from the NSWIS squad. 'We have ten U-16s with us, so to get 70% of them selected was terrific,' said Cross. 'I hope they all continue to impress Ange and go on to represent Australia at the U-17 World Cup next year.'



Former Socceroo Robbie Slater (right) shares some tips with NSWIS coach Kelly Cross (left)

BY POPULAR DEMAND!

NSWIS COACHING SEMINAR

Due to popular demand, the NSW Institute of Sport (NSWIS) in partnership with Soccer NSW and The University of New South Wales Sports Association, is conducting another Coaching Seminar. Following the recent success of 'ELITE YOUTH FOOTBALL IN EUROPE' and 'COACHING STRIKERS — the matchwinners' presented by NSWIS Men's Soccer Program Head coach Kelly Cross, a further Seminar is being offered.

It will be held at UNSW on Sunday the 24th of October 2004.

Kelly currently holds the National Coaching Licence, the FA International Coaching Diploma and the National Soccer Coaches' Association of America Advanced National Diploma. From 1997 to 2000 he was assistant coach of the Australian National Under 17-team.

Seminar Topic

COACHING THE ATTACKING 4-4-2

Based on the play of some of the world's top club and National teams, the video session will show how positive and attacking the much-criticised 4-4-2 can be.

Coaching will see on screen how it develops into 4-2-4 and even 2-4-4.

The defensive strengths of the 4-4-2 are also examined.

The practical session in the afternoon will show how coaching sessions can be structured to effectively teach this system to players of all ages.

For more information please e-mail info@soccernsw.com.au
RSVP by Tuesday 19th October 2004



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SPORTS ASSOCIATION

DETAILS

SEMINAR DATE:

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 24th, 2004

VENUE:

RUPERT MYERS AUDITORIUM UNSW

GATE 14

BAKER ST, KENSINGTON

TIME: 10am — 3.30PM

COST: \$58 (inc GST)

(coaching booking by end of business on October 18 pay \$50)

COACHING SEMINAR, OCTOBER 24th 2004 — 10AM-3.30PM

Please forward your credit card details/cheque/cash/money order for \$58 (incl GST) per person for one seminar, or \$50 if sending prior to October 18th, 2004.

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Please tick \$50 (early bird) \$58 (normal)

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FROM THE SIDELINES
WITH GREG STOCK

Nwaogazi snubs Bonnyrigg for Stallions

Bonnyrigg coach John Turner has finished another mixed week with news that key striker Chimaobi Nwaogazi has left the club and signed with local rivals Marconi.

"It's very sad to have lost a player of Chima's ability but that's football and you get on with things," said Turner.

"I was the one who gave Chima an opportunity in the National league with Wollongong and to lose him is a blow to us."

On the up side for the White Eagles comes news that Young Soccerroo Michael Baird has signed a one-year deal with the club.

"Michael is an exceptional talent and he will give us some real depth either up front or in the midfield," said Turner. Having had a disappointing year with Sydney Olympic in the National league, Baird returned to his native Queensland playing in the local Premier League over winter. His return to Sydney a move likely to revitalise his career playing in the high calibre N.S.W. Premier League.

Winter SL coaches announced

The Winter Super League season has only just been consigned to the history books but already many clubs have announced their first grade coach season 2005. Bruce Tilt will be returning as head coach of Hajduk Wanderers United, Ian Gillan has been endorsed for another term.



By Greg Stock

at Fraser Park while Liam McGuire is the new boss at Macarthur Rams.

The biggest move however has been University coach Stewart Porter moving down to Sutherland replacing Vic Ellul. Porter is the sentimental favourite to take out the Winter Super League Coach of the Year award and his return to the Sharks is seen as a positive move in reestablishing the club at the elite level. FTS also hears whispers that Porter's former assistant coach at University, John Calleja is in line for his old job.

Blue Devils sign experience

The Blue Devils have confirmed that two of their most experienced players will not be backing up for the new Premier League season. Goalkeeper Tony Giannasca and defender Toplica

Popovich have declared their hand putting a huge dint in the Belconnen campaign before a ball has even been kicked.

"Giannasca had given personal and family reasons for why he would be taking a break," said coach Chris Tanzey.

"We respect that and Anthony tells me he will be staying in touch with the club and has not ruled out a come-back at a later stage. Toppy has been a tremendous servant and will be sadly missed, but with his business activities expanding it was just too great a commitment. We also have a number of younger players coming through now and this will be a good opportunity to promote them."

Giannasca's departure presents an opening for 21-year-old goalkeeper Nathan Denham, who has just finished a season playing in the ACT Premier League for O'Connor Knights.

"He's already accumulated quite a bit of experience as an ACT representative, and in the local competition with the Knights and before that Gungahlin Juventus. He knows the lads and I believe he can rise to the challenge, even though it is a big step up," said Tanzey.

Also on the books this year is Nicolai Topor-Stanley, a talented left sided defender or midfielder who has been part of the ACT Academy of Sport and Australian Institute of Sport squads. Tanzey described him as "versatile and a lad who can go on to bigger things".

Premier League trials kick-off

The first trial matches for the new season have been run and won over the weekend with a couple of interesting results. Last seasons champions Bankstown City have been the busiest in recent weeks playing Sydney Crescent Star on the Monday of the long weekend (lost 0-2) and then travelling north on Sunday to meet the new-look Coasties at the superbly named Mangrove Mountain Reserve. The Lions triumphed 2-0 with goals from George Nohra and Dimitri Nicolaou with coach Andy Papoulas happy with his sides performance.

"The Coasties are going to give a lot of cheek this year and they really served it up to us today," said Papoulas. "The weather was warm for the boys so I was happy with the workout and result considering we had six key players absent."

Amongst those cooling their heels on the sidelines was last years Golden boot winner Matthew Borg, Buddy Farah, Richard Luksic, Sasa Trajceviski and Nahuel Arrarte. Papoulas naming Peter Tsekenis, George Nohra and Matthew Pressello as his best players.

At Valentine Park Bonnyrigg took to the field in an early fixture against Sydney Crescent Star. Having beaten Bankstown the week before 2-0 and posting a hard fought 1-1 draw with Parramatta Eagles midweek, Crescent Star showed some good teamwork early on but couldn't sustain it through the later stages of the second half and went down 3-2. New Bonnyrigg recruit Michael Baird debuted with two goals with Michael Hawrysiuk picking up the third.

"I was just happy to come through the match unscathed," said White Eagles coach John Turner.

"I made eight substitutions throughout the game to give everyone some match time and I was happy with what I saw at this stage of our preparation."

Crescent Star unveiled new signings Freddy Umlil, Sefer Yildiz and Sargoon Dawd during the match.

At Edensor Park, Sydney United knocked over A.P.I.A. Leichhardt in a low scoring contest played over three 30-minute periods.

The hot weather having a factor on the players sapping energy levels and seeing both coaches make numerous changes.

For the record the home side prevailed 1-0 via a Matthew Langdon strike and had the better of the match but A.P.I.A. did show a lot of poise especially in the first period.

Pablo Cardozo impressing in his United debut while Clint Bolton and Andrew Clark did well for the Tigers.

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1. The top 18 players in the U/8 (1997), U/9 (D.O.B 1996), U/10 (D.O.B 1995) will form the Junior Professional Development Academy.

2. The top 18 players in the U/11 (1994), U12 (1993), U13+ (1992+) will form the Senior Professional Development Academy

Details are as follows:

Sydney North Academy Trials

Venue: Truman Reserve, Cromer Heights
Date: Saturday 16th October 2004
Time: 8:00am - 10:00 am

Sydney South Academy Trials

Venue: University of Western Sydney, Campbelltown Campus, Rugby Field
Date: Saturday 16th October 2004
Time: 8:00am - 10:00am

All interested players MUST contact the office to complete and submit an official application form prior to the trial date to confirm their position at the trials.

For further information please visit the website www.coerveraustralia.com or contact the COERVER Coaching office on 88144436/88144434 during office hours



Chima Nwaogazi has signed on with JP's Marconi Stallions for the new NSW Premier League season



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